Guingona back in GMA Cabinet as 'Mindanao czar'

Story on PAGE A2

Gov't misses GDP target by a hairline

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOR the first time since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in January last year, the government missed its quarterly economic growth target. A temporary setback, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said.

The economy expanded 3.8 percent in

GOV'T/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA admits RP one of Asia's weakest states

By Carlito Pablo

THE PHILIPPINES has become "one of the weakest" states in Asia and it's because of "too much politics," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The President, whose current battle cry is a "strong republic," made the admission in a candid speech on the ills

GMA/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, November 29, 2002 ★★ 102 pages / 9 sections / vol. 17 / no. 354 P15
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Terror grips 2 embassies

Canada, Australia cite explicit threats of attacks

NEITHER National Security Adviser Roilo Golez nor Makati police officials had information on the threats, but sources said police had been ordered to keep mum so as not to give the matter more mileage.

Nevertheless, Australia and Canada cited "explicit" and "credible" threats of attacks in explaining why they closed their embassies in Makati yesterday, "for an indefinite period of time" in Canada's case. Canada also issued a ban on travel to the Philippines, while Australia heightened its warning level and urged its nationals to forego non-essential trips to the country.

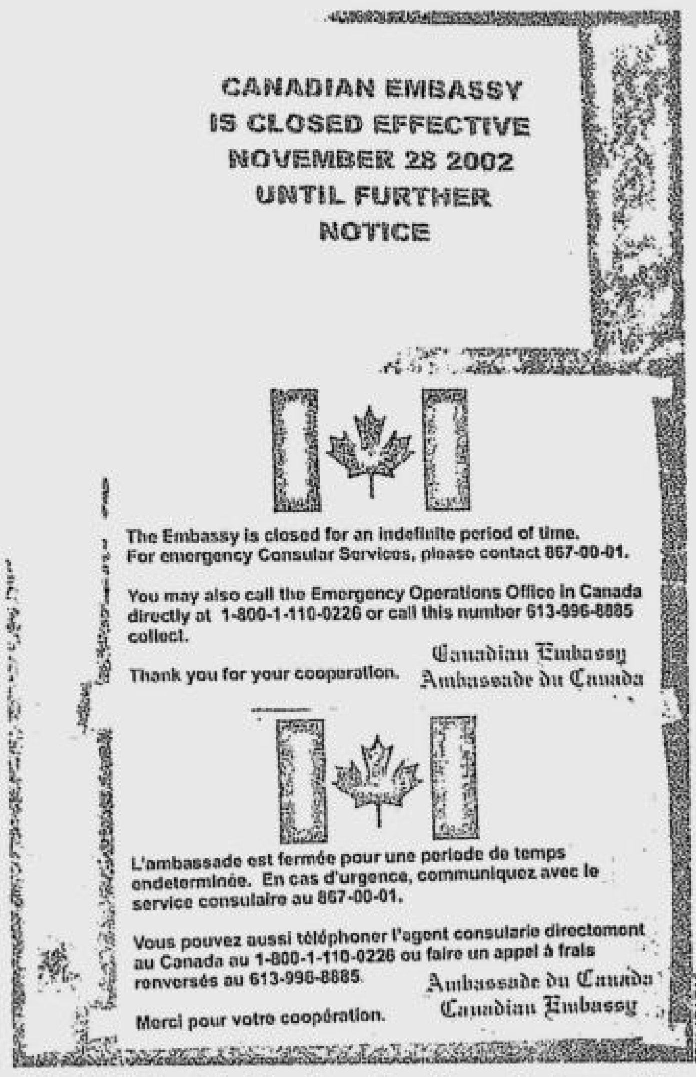
The European Commission, in the same building that houses the Australian Embassy, appeared to have closed its office as well.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on radio that his government had received information from sources in the Philippines about a planned attack by Islamic extremists in the next few days.

"I saw the intelligence warning and it couldn't have been more explicit," Prime Minister John Howard also told Australia Broadcasting Corp. radio. "I'm sorry when these things occur, but what alternative do you have

TERROR/ A20

GRIM duty for round-the-clock guarding of the PNP's Response Team at the Canadian Embassy.



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Vous pouvez aussi téléphoner l'agent consularie directement au Canada au 1-800-1-110-0226 ou faire un appel à frais renversés au 613-996-8885.

Merci pour votre coopération.

Ambassade du Canada
Canadian Embassy

ERIK ARAZAS

"INDEFINITE period of time," says the notice on the closure of the Canadian Embassy located in the Allied Bldg. on Ayala Ave., Makati.

Terrorists hit Israelis in Kenya; 11 killed

KIKAMBALA, Kenya—In simultaneous attacks on Israeli tourists in Kenya, a suicide car bomb exploded at an Israeli-owned hotel on Thursday, killing at least 11 people, and at least two missiles were fired at—but missed—an Israeli airliner that had just left the city of Mombasa.

The bombing and missile strikes occurred around 8 a.m. (1 p.m. Manila time) at the Paradise Hotel in Kikambala, 20 km north of Mombasa, said Col. Bonventur Wendo, director of Kenya's National Disaster Center.

Eleven people were killed and at least 80 wounded, said Lt. Gen. John Sawe, the Kenyan ambassador to Israel. Abbas Gullet of the Kenyan Red Cross said seven were Kenyans, two were Israelis and two were suspected suicide bombers.

Gullet said most of the Kenyans were from a traditional

TERRORISTS/ A20

Closure irks Cabinet officials

By Norman Bordadora and Martin P. Marfil

CABINET officials last night expressed their displeasure to the ambassadors of Australia and Canada over their governments' decision to close their embassies here on the basis of "information they have yet to share."

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said this transpired at a meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs attended by Philippine officials and Ambassadors Ruth Pearce of Australia and Robert Collette of Canada. Also present were Ambassador Theo Arnold of the Netherlands as third-party observer and Msgr. E. Robinson Wijisinghe, representative of Antonio Franco, papal nuncio and dean of the diplomatic corps.

But he clarified that the meeting was not a form of diplomatic protest against Australia and Canada.

Ople told reporters that Pearce and Collette cited a "specific" threat from Islamic fundamentalists, probably the Jemaah Islamiah, as the cause of the embassies'

CLOSURE/ A20

ERIK ARAZAS

"LOCATION-SPECIFIC, time-specific" threats by Islamic extremists send Australian officials packing out of their embassy in Paseo de Roxas.

EDWIN BACASMAS

POETS, philosophers, humorists in the military with President Macapagal and former President Fidel Ramos.

New chief of staff 'a man of gratitude'

By Fe Zamora, *Inq7.net*
and Carlito Pablo

IT WAS not unlike a show biz awards night.

At the Armed Forces change of command ceremonies yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo, the incoming chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dionesio Santiago, had a gratitude list, probably the longest ever in the history of AFP turnover rites.

After saying he was "very grateful" to President Macapagal-Arroyo for appointing him, Santiago also profusely thanked his mother, wife and children. And he might have properly stopped there. But he went on to thank his supporters in the military (Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, retired Gen. Leo Alvez, etc); favorite patron saints (St. Jude and "St. Jude Reyes," the last referring to the defense secretary); a feng shui expert from Cebu and his Chinese friends from Binondo, some of

NEW/ A19

EDWIN BACASMAS

"CHUCK NORRIS," Lt. Gen. Dionesio Santiago, becomes the AFP'S 31st chief of staff at change of command rites in Camp Aguinaldo.

$2-M MESS

Escaler leaves for US; Perez, Jimenez exchange taunts

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet L. Javellana

A FEW hours after granting a TV interview on Wednesday night, controversial banker Ernest Escaler left for the United States. In his wake, Justice Secretary-on-leave Hernando Perez and his accuser Rep. Mark Jimenez exchanged taunts, issued challenges—and offered their own interpretation of Escaler's statements.

Saying he felt vindicated, Perez said Escaler's clarification that the two had never transacted business already destroyed Jimenez's "$2-million tale."

"I feel elated, vindicated," he said. "It's good he (Escaler) came out. Now, I can make my move." He also told TV reporters he was readying civil charges against Jimenez, be-

ESCALER/ A21

Roco accuses GMA of using double standard

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Political hypocrisy?

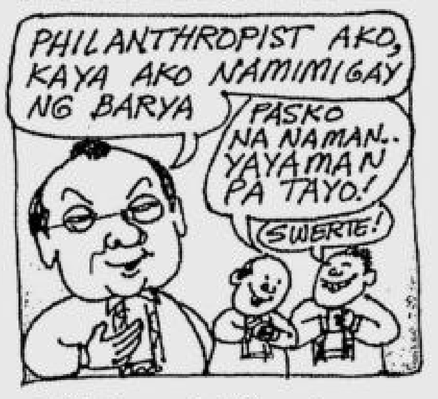
Former Education Secretary Raul Roco yesterday accused the President of using a double standard in dealing with allegations against Justice Secretary-on-leave Hernando "Nani" Perez.

"I hate to use myself as an example but the President had me investigated, yet with all the charges against Nani she can hardly get herself to have him investigated," he told the INQUIRER.

Roco pointed out that Dario Rama, chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, had him probed—with the endorsement of President Macapagal-Arroyo—when he was still education chief.

Rama even accused him of corruption during a radio interview, he added, even though Roco had said then that he had not done anything

ROCO/ A6



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SWERTE!

MJ 'pork' for poor, not for lawmakers

By Juliet Javellana and Christine Avendaño

IT WASN'T for the congressmen but for their poor constituents.

Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez yesterday admitted giving P50,000-checks to some congressmen last Christmas but clarified that the money was not meant for his colleagues but for their

MJ PORK/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and the Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/29/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Beef import ban surprises Aussies

SYDNEY—The Australian beef industry reacted with surprise on Thursday to a reported ban by the Philippines on Australian beef imports because of a minor anthrax outbreak.

Anthrax, a bacterial disease that thrives in soils and is fatal to cattle, was found this week to have killed a single animal at a cattle ranch in the state of Victoria.

A spokesperson for Trade Minister Mark Vaile said the Australian government had not been contacted by the Philippines government informing it of any ban on Australian beef imports.

The federal body the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) contacted Philippine authorities on Wednesday to advise that there was no risk posed by imported beef from Australia, she said.

The Australian government's view was that Australian beef imports were therefore not banned, she said.

However, officials from the Philippines' Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) said on Thursday that they had already informed Australian officials on the issue.

"We have informed officials at the Australian Embassy in Manila that we would stop issuing veterinary quarantine clearance (VQC) certificates for beef imports coming from Australia," an official from BAI said.

"We have also informed our agricultural attache in Canberra to further inform Australian officials about this," he said.

Importers could not bring beef from Australia into the country without having a VQC certificate issued, officials said.

"As we do not issue VQC for new applicants, so they could not bring in beef from Australia into the country," said one official.

The Philippine government also issued a statement on Thursday rejecting a call from the Philippine meat processors asking the government to restrict meat imports from Victoria state, rather than from all Australian states.

"We cannot compromise the health and safety of the Filipino people," Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said in the statement. *Reuters*

Guingona accepts Cabinet post as 'Mindanao czar'

By Dona Pazzibugan

A DAY after launching an anti-administration political movement, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., accepted a position in the Cabinet as "Mindanao czar."

Guingona accepted the appointment under Administrative Order 45, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed yesterday during a Cabinet meeting.

His appointment though was made effective on Nov. 25. It carries a Cabinet rank.

It was the same offer which Guingona rejected in July, when he resigned as concurrent foreign secretary due to "policy differences" with Ms Macapagal.

Guingona had since openly criticized the President's policies, particularly her purported pro-United States stance.

This week he said he would ask the Supreme Court to nullify the newly signed RP-US Military Logistics Support Agreement.

Guingona was supposed to have been asked by Malacañang to resign when he opposed the MLSA.

On Wednesday, Guingona revived the political movement Bagong Bandila, which participated in the Edsa I and II revolts.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President's offer to Guingona to be Mindanao czar was never withdrawn.

"He has been billed before as the Mindanao czar, so I guess this makes it official," he said in a news briefing.

He added that Guingona's criticisms are irrelevant to his new role.

"If he entertains some political beliefs which are slightly different from what we have, well, this is a free country. We do not take that against the Vice President," said Bunye.

Team player now?

Asked if Guingona is expected to be a "team player" now, Bunye said they expected him to "coordinate with the administration" in the course of overseeing the programs.

Under AO 45, Guingona was given sweeping powers to oversee "socio-economic programs, particularly those involving the development of Mindanao."

He was also given oversight powers over the Overseas Filipino Investment Bond; the Housing Program for Overseas Filipino Workers and Others; the Seafarer's Welfare Program; and the establishment of an integrated steel plant in Mindanao.

He would get his funding for next year from "available resources" to be determined by the Department of Budget and Management.

But for the succeeding years, funding would be incorporated in the budget proposal of the Office of the Vice President.

When the title of Mindanao czar was offered to him in July, Guingona complained that the title did not come with funding.

Guingona's appointment came as the President deactivated the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA).

The SPDA was created in 1996 to oversee the development of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao following the signing of a peace pact between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Bunye said the SPDA's deactivation was not related to the creation of Guingona's job.

At the House, three congressmen have filed a resolution calling for a thorough audit and investigation of alleged anomalies in the SPDA.

The SPDA was created through Presidential Decree No. 690 in 1975, as amended by PD 1703, to foster social and economic development in the different southern provinces.

Infighting

Representatives Prospero Pichay Jr., Prospero Nograles and Benasing Macarambon said that since the term of former Administrator Zamzamin Ampatuan to the present SPDA chief Mujahib Hashim, "there has been infighting between the board of directors and the administrator" of the Authority.

This bickering, they said, has led to "paralysis in the organization, failure in the delivery of services to various constituents, and non-payment of salaries to the employees for the past four months."

They said charges and countercharges have been hurled regarding "ghost cooperatives, beneficiaries, unauthorized purchases of vehicles, insubordination, etc."

Owing to these issues, the SPDA board passed a resolution stripping the Administrator of all his powers and functions.

Group defends Iglesia on Naia 3

ANOTHER group of labor, civic and sectoral organizations has come to the defense of the Iglesia ni Cristo against allegations that the religious sect was pressuring the government into opening the controversial Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In a statement, Segismundo Diaz, spokesperson of the Save the Naia 3 Coalition (SNC), accused the anti-Piatco group Scrap of "sowing intrigue and spreading lies" in claiming that the INC was being induced by a member to influence the administration into opening the terminal as scheduled on Dec. 15.

Diaz said the claim was a "figment of the imagination and utterly false."

Moises Tolentino, spokesperson of the Philippine International Air Terminal Co., denied that he was prompting the sect into pushing for the opening of the terminal, saying Piatco's airport contract will stand or fall on its own merit.

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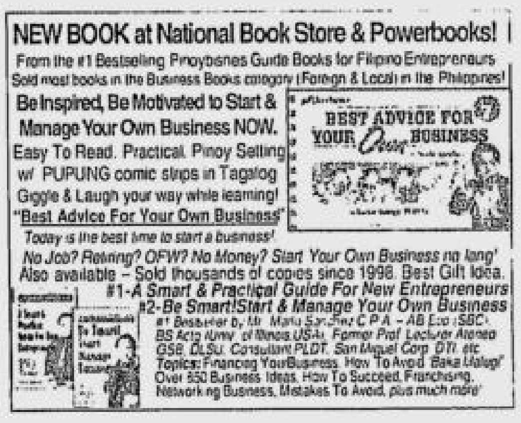
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LaoagAir officials, pilots on 'watch list'

By Abigail L. Ho

FOUR officials of Laoag International Airlines (LIA) have been put on the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation's "watch list" while investigation on the Flight 585 crash is still ongoing.

LIA chair Paul Ng, stockholder Jimmy Tan and pilots Bernie Crisostomo and Joseph Gardiner will not be allowed to leave the country following the Department of Transportation and Communications fact-finding committee's request for a hold departure order on them, Transportation Undersecretary and committee chair Arturo Valdez said.

"BID Commissioner Andrea Domingo told me that she personally went to the airport today to implement our request. These people have to be available anytime for further statements," he said.

The "watch list" means the four will not be allowed to leave the country for 90 days.

The fact-finding body of the Nov. 11 crash, which killed 19 persons, is also expected to submit its partial findings to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza today.

Valdez declined to disclose the committee's findings and recommendations, although he said "there would be some arrests.

"The fuel switch was shut off, that much had been established. The pilots failed to notice that the fuel switch was on the off position," he said. "But it's not just the pilots' fault. It's actually the conditions and environment that breed within the company that resulted in this cavalier attitude to safety."

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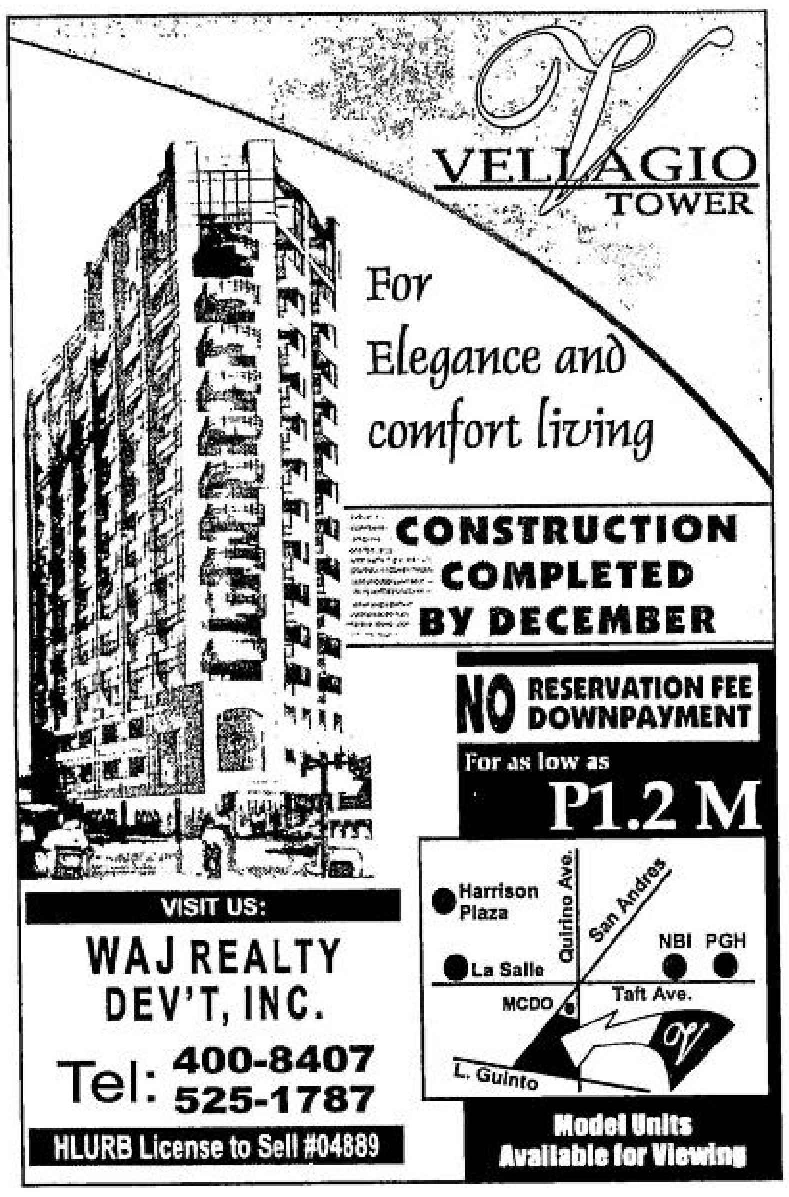
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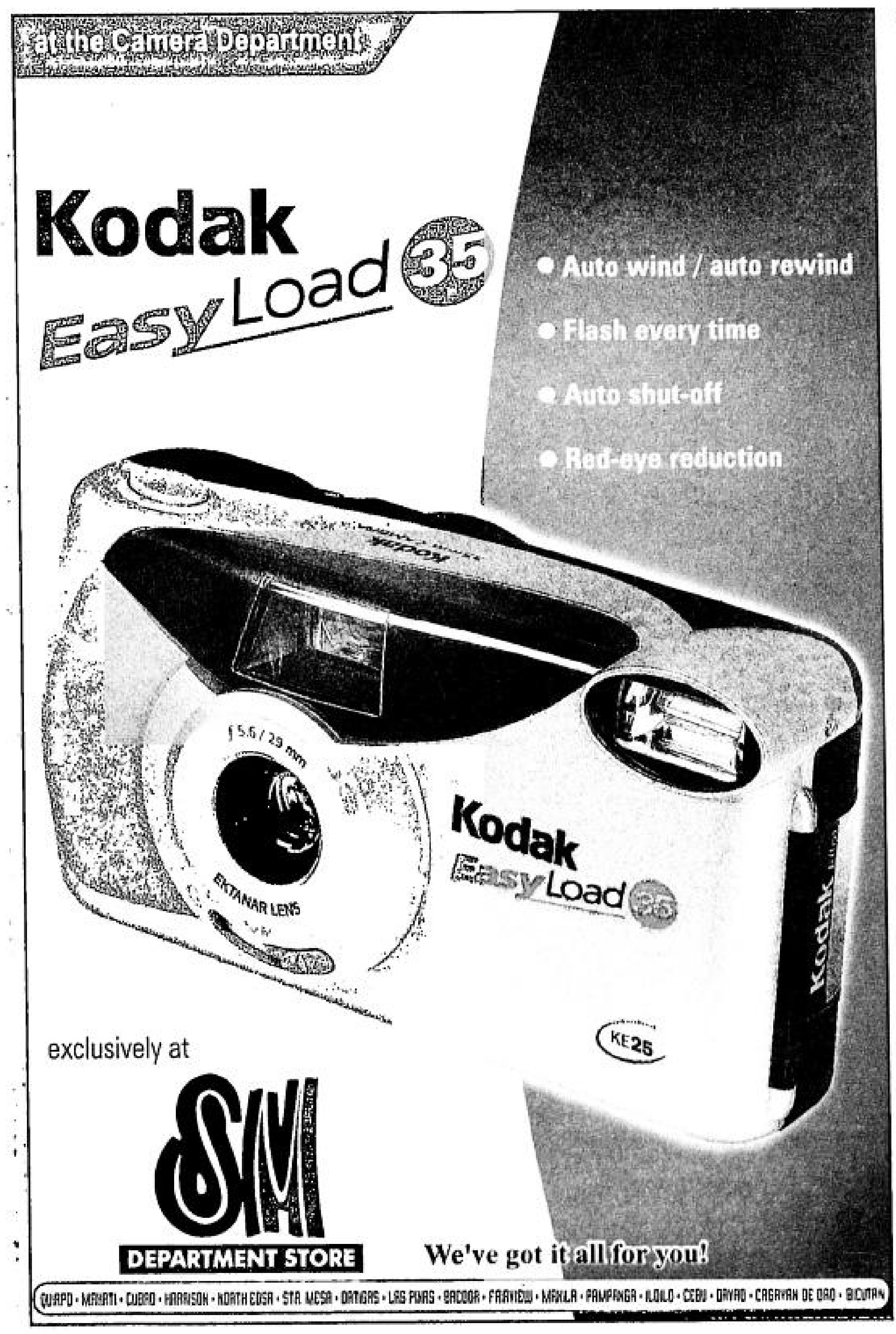
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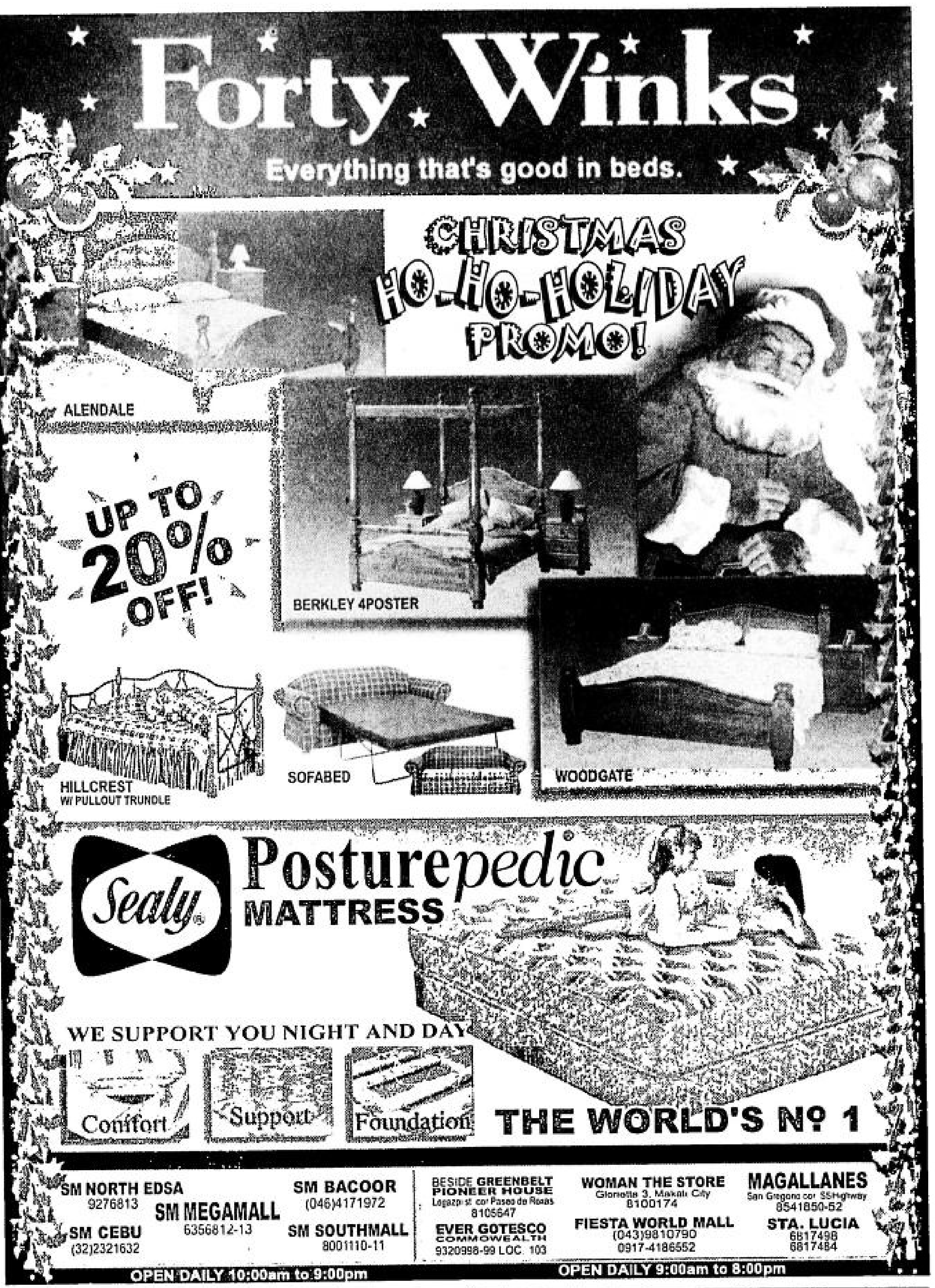
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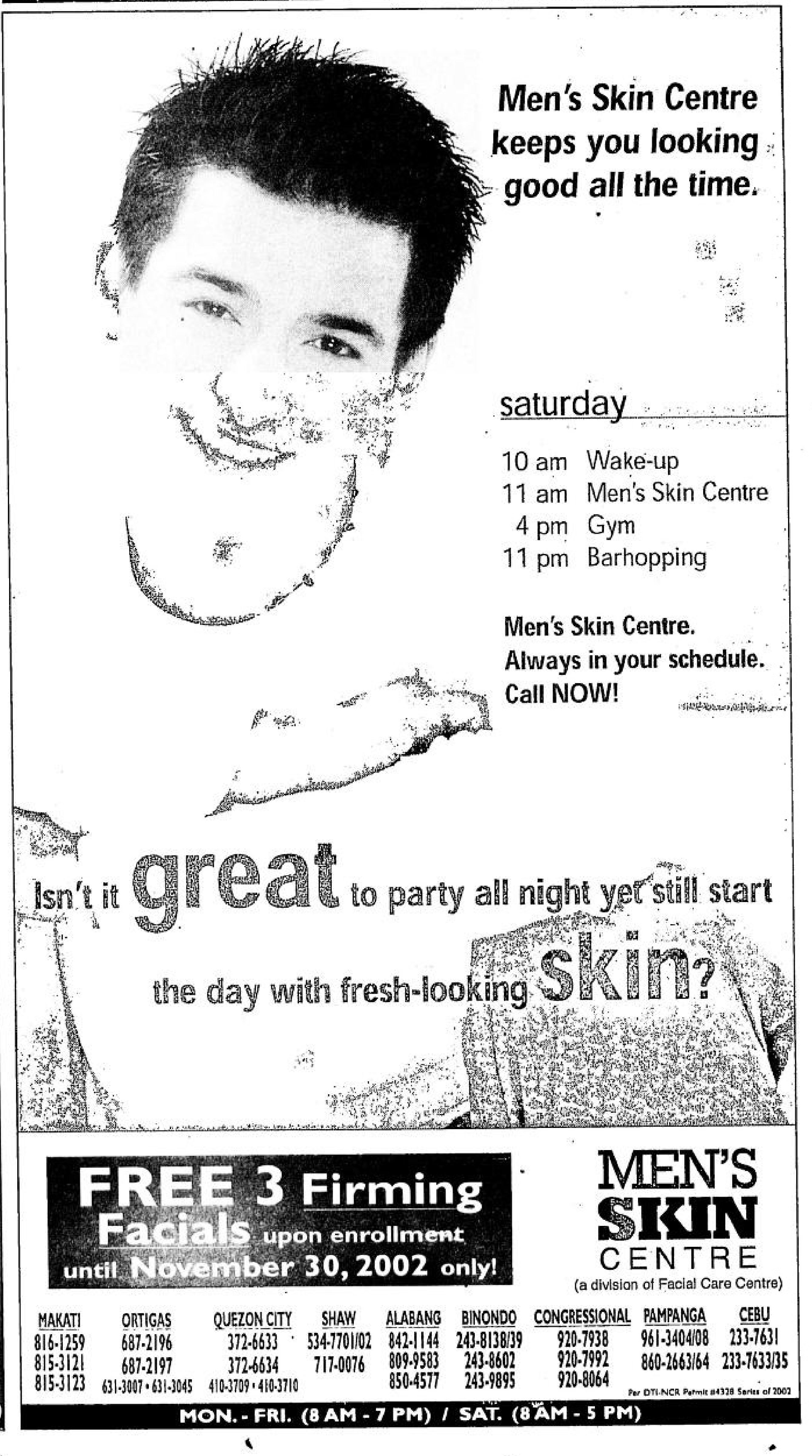
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Gov't misses GDP target by a hairline

From page A1

the third quarter compared with a year earlier, slightly below the official target of 3.9-4.4 percent, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board.

NSCB Secretary General Romulo Virola told a news conference a slump in agriculture, which accounts for about a fifth of the gross domestic product (GDP), counteracted the growth in industry and services.

The third-quarter figure brought GDP growth to 4.1 percent for the first nine months of the year compared with 3 percent in the same period last year.

Virola, however, said seasonally adjusted GDP contracted 0.1 percent from a rise of 2.6 percent in the second quarter. It was the first time in four years that the economy had shrunk on a quarterly basis.

Gross national product, which includes remittances of overseas Filipino workers and other income from abroad, grew 3.4 percent in the third quarter, bringing GNP growth to 4.2 percent for the nine months of the year.

Canlas said the economy was "still on track" to hit the government's GDP growth target of 4-4.5 percent and GNP growth target of 4.5-5 percent for the whole year.

"The strong growth of industry and services indicates that the policies of (President Macapagal), designed for macroeconomic stability and long-term industrial restructuring are working," he said.

Canlas also said the agriculture sector was already showing signs of recovery in the last three months of the year.

Slump in agriculture

Agriculture, which includes fishery and forestry, contracted 0.4 percent in the third quarter from a 2.4-percent growth in the second quarter. Production of rice fell by 16 percent, corn by 5.6 percent, sugarcane by 43.6 percent and other crops by 1.2 percent.

Canlas blamed the downturn in agriculture on bad weather. Farmers, he said, also planted less in anticipation of the El Niño phenomenon that was expected to hit the country in the latter part of 2002.

"The agricultural slump I think is something very temporary," Canlas told reporters. "We didn't really expect it to be strong."

The drop in farm output slowed down growth in food manufacturing. Growth in manufacturing, which accounts for a quarter of industrial output, slid to 1.8 percent year-on-year in July to September from 4.8 percent in the previous quarter.

Canlas said he was confident that barring more storms, agriculture would hit the growth target of 3.1-3.5 percent for the year.

But he pointed out that industry and services remained strong. "So far, all indicators … show no signs of slowing down or declining," he said.

The slump in agriculture was partially made up for by the 4.4-percent growth in industry and 4.9-percent growth in services. In the same period last year, industry grew 1.9 percent and services 4.4 percent.

Consumer spending

A strong growth of 4.1 percent in personal consumption also compensated for the 0.8-percent contraction in government spending. The Macapagal administration has clamped down on its expenditures in the third quarter to rein in its ballooning budget deficit.

But net factor income from abroad, which includes remittances by OFWs, shrank 2.7 percent in July to September compared with a 10.2-percent growth in the same period last year. In the second quarter of this year, dollar inflows rose 8.4 percent.

Canlas attributed the third-quarter decline to lower income earned by OFWs as well as higher interest payments by the government and private sector on foreign debt.

The millions of dollars remitted by Filipinos from abroad is a major contributor to the nation's economy.

Not impressed

Some foreign analysts, however, expressed concern that the Philippines would not attain its growth targets for the whole year.

"It (GDP data) is reflective of what we were saying all along—that the economy was not able to maintain the pace we saw in the second quarter," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at GK Goh Securities in Singapore.

He did not expect agriculture to bounce back strongly in the fourth quarter. "Overall GDP growth for the full year could be closer to 3.6 to 3.8 percent," he said.

Julian Wee, an economist of Singapore research unit, IDEAglobal.com, said he now expected a full-year GDP growth of 3.9 percent.

"The main disappointment is the agriculture sector and the services sector," he said. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

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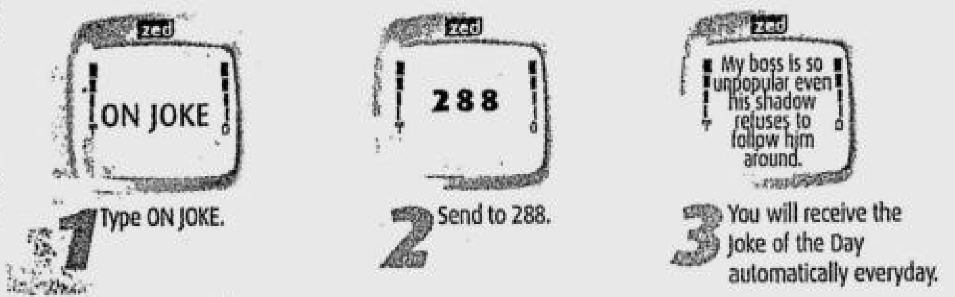
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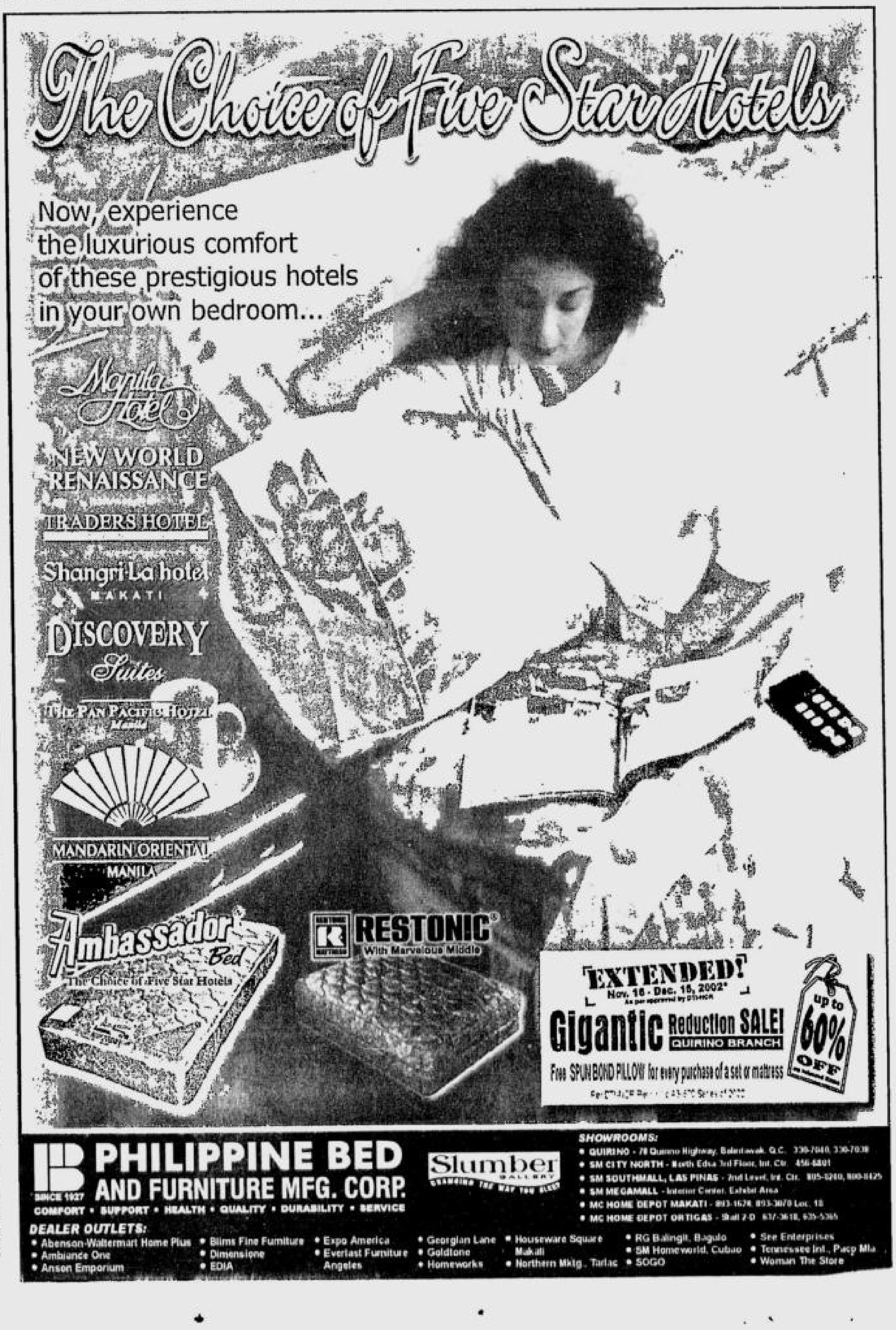
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Coyiuto, Chronicle staffers lose P101-M libel to envoy

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAKATI Regional Trial Court has found several editors and reporters of the defunct The Manila Chronicle liable for libel and ordered them to pay Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco P101 million in damages.

In a 21-page ruling on the civil case, Judge Rebecca Mariano of RTC Branch 156 said the Chronicle Publishing, its chair Roberto Coyiuto and editors and reporters Neal Cruz, Ernesto Tolentino, Noel Cabrera, Thelma San Juan, Gerry Zaragosa, Donna Gatdula, Raul Valino and Rodney Diola "acted with malice in composing the subject articles" that were the basis of Yuchengco's complaint.

Yuchengco, Philippine ambassador to the United Nations, said in his complaint that the defendants, in several articles in November and December 1993, depicted him as a "Marcos crony" and a "corporate raider" who engaged in dubious financial transactions.

"The court is convinced that the subject articles were in fact derogatory to the person of plaintiff Yuchengco," Mariano said in her decision. She also said the defendants were out to destroy Yuchengco's reputation.

In their defense, the respondents invoked freedom of speech and of the press, and said the articles that Yuchengco had complained about were "published in good faith." They added that they should not be held liable for libel because the ambassador was a public figure.

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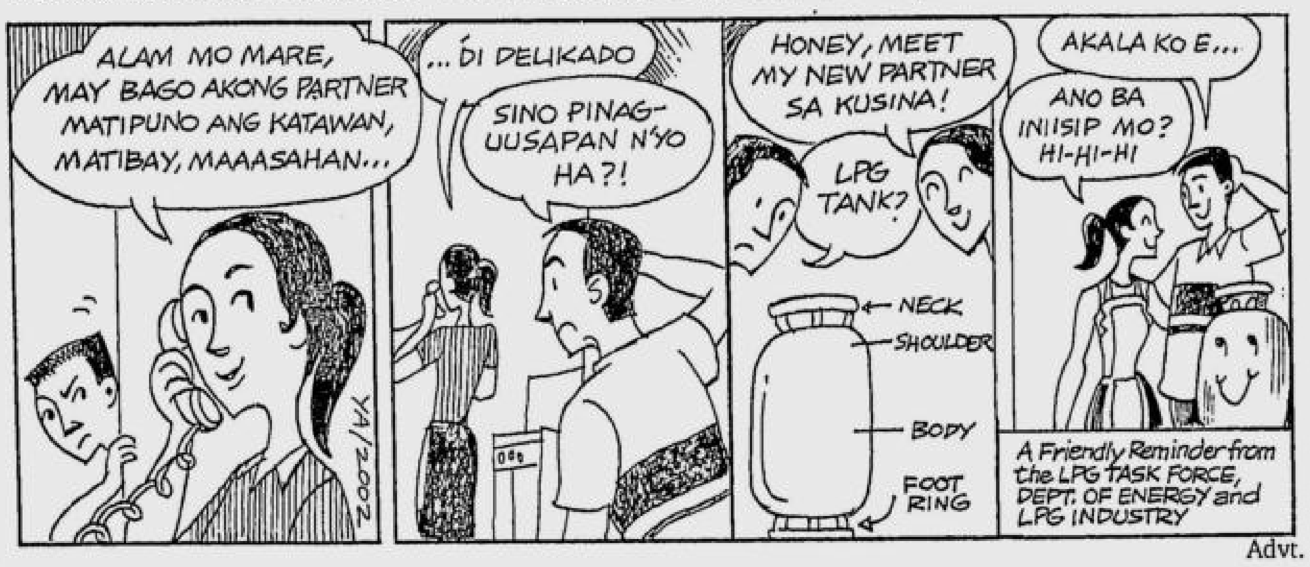
Automation to spare teachers of poll work—DepEd

EDUCATION Secretary Edilberto de Jesus favors the automation of elections in 2004 so that teachers could be relieved of heavy election duties.

Before, it was mostly only the National Movement for Free Elections which had been pushing for poll automation, believing that this would lessen if not cure cheating in elections.

There were teachers who had been charged in connection with the *dagdag-bawas* scandal in the 1998 polls.

De Jesus said this had posed a problem before for the Department of Education, and was mainly the reason why the department had been pushing for teachers to be taken out of poll duties.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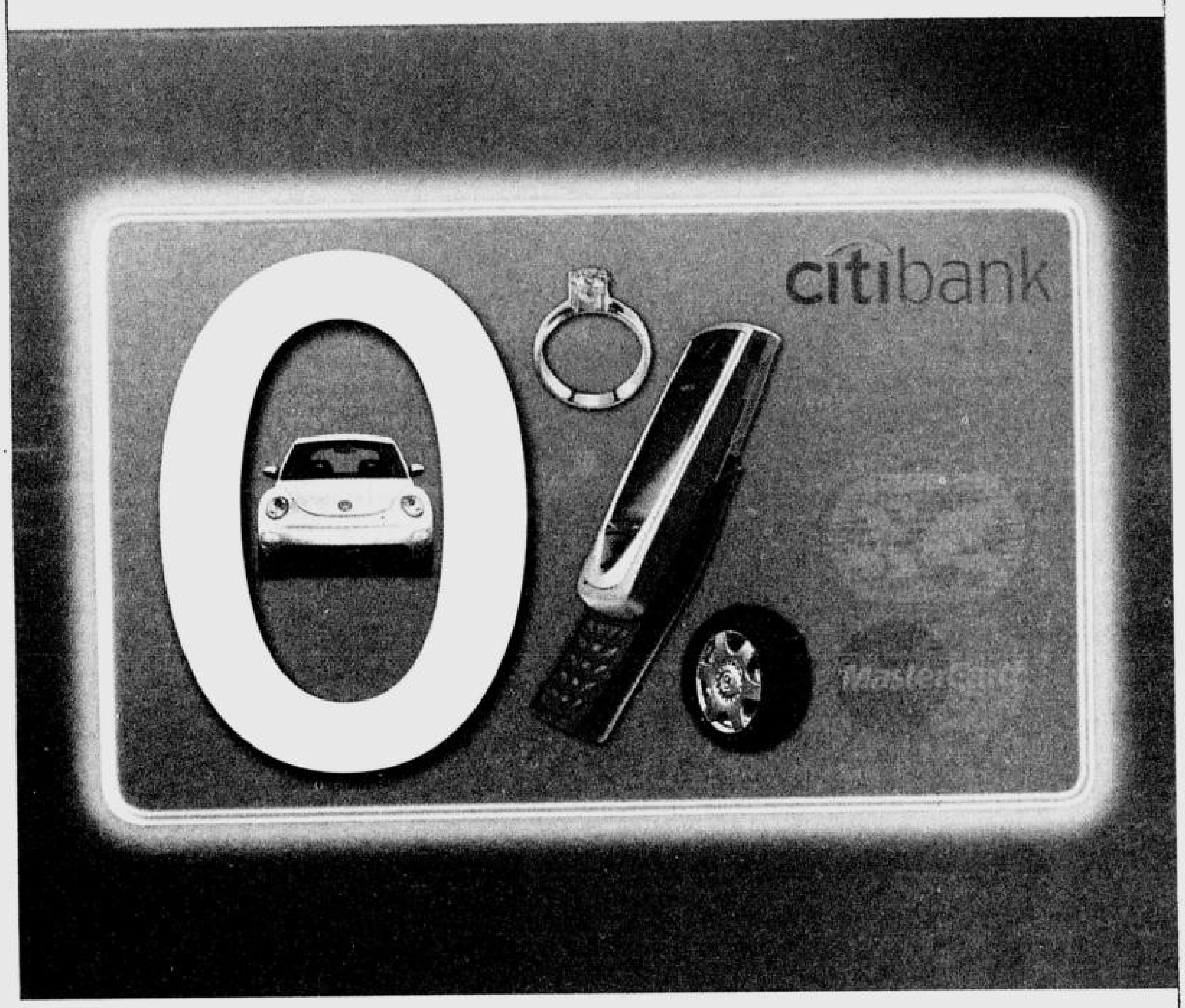

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Roco accuses GMA of using double standard

From page A1

wrong.

"With Nani, there are already charges in Congress and Rama says he cannot investigate so there is a double standard of justice that government must explain," said Roco.

Roco resigned as secretary of the Department of Education last August, after Ms Macapagal endorsed the graft complaint of the DepEd Central-Office Employees' Union to the PAGC for investigation. The move was widely seen as an attempt to clip the wings of a survey-topping politician and potential rival of the President's.

Yesterday, Roco suggested that Perez should also do the same: resign, not merely go on leave.

Roco said it would be difficult for Department of Justice lawyers to investigate and prosecute Perez who is only on a 30-day leave of absence.

"How can they properly investigate a boss they know is coming back in 30 days?" Roco asked.

Roco's brother

Roco's appeal to Perez to resign was echoed in Congress by the ex-secretary's brother, Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio "Cho" Roco Jr. The younger Roco said the 30-day leave defeated the purpose of an investigation "because the investigators will know that the secretary is coming back after one month."

The congressman emphasized that Malacañang placed "moral governance at a disadvantage" when it merely ordered Perez to go on leave.

"If the Executive department is serious in fighting graft, then instead of lifestyle checks, the revelations of Representatives (Willie) Villarama and Mark Jimenez should be investigated with all the power and resources of the justice department, the agency with the duty to prosecute," he said.

He said investigators are under pressure of the deadline.

"I talked to potential investigators (in the House on Wednesday) and they said they are under threat because the secretary will return after one month," said Roco.

Various agencies under the DOJ were in the House the other day to defend their 2003 budget.

Asked what Perez should do, Roco said: "I think the classic example would be what my brother did."

"Whether (the charges against Perez are) true or not, I think he should resign," Rep. Roco said.

"The oath of the President is to do justice to every man," he added.

"The President must therefore apply the law equally to Congressmen Willie Villarama and Mark Jimenez and Secretary Perez without fear or favor," he said.

The call to resign was also echoed by Fr. Robert Reyes, the activist priest.

"I think this (30-day leave) should be taken as a graceful exit. He should spend it packing up his things," Reyes said in a press briefing in Intramuros yesterday.

He said Perez's credibility has been damaged by Jimenez's allegations.

"Who is clean in politics? Is Perez clean? Is Jimenez clean? They both claim they're clean but the people already doubt them," Reyes said.

He added that Jimenez should also be extradited to the United States, where the congressman is wanted for mail fraud and illegal political campaign contributions.

Roco, asked if he believed the accusations against Perez were true, replied: "that's what the investigation should show."

"Certainly we cannot ignore documented charges, they must be answered, they must be explained," he said.

"Nani is a good friend of mine. As professional lawyers we were always facing each other in court for eight years. So I hesitate to exacerbate feelings," he added.

With reports from Juliet Javellana and Philip Tubeza

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MJ 'pork' for poor, not for lawmakers

From page A1

constituents.

"It is MJ who is a philanthropist, who gives not to the congressmen but (to) their charity projects and the needs of their constituents," Jimenez said.

He could not recall who or how many of his colleagues received his donations.

"I do not brag about them," he said.

Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice blew the whistle on Jimenez's "gift-giving" spree in a privilege speech the other day. Erice had also scored Jimenez's alleged meddling in Caloocan politics by using his wealth to get support for Erice's political rival.

Yesterday, Jimenez turned the tables on Erice, saying the latter had a personal grudge against him.

He said Erice's lawyer, Ellen Besa, was close to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. He said Perez was once Besa's law professor at the Ateneo Law School.

He said Besa was even Erice's special guest during the inauguration of his district office.

Jimenez said that Besa used her closeness with Perez to secure a contract with the Department of Justice. He said she handled big personalities who are under the government's Witness Protection Program.

"In this connection, Erice should explain Attorney Besa's relationship to Belle Corp.'s Willy Ocier, former (Social Security System) Administrator (Carlos) Arellano and former (Government Service Insurance System) General Manager (Federico) Pascual who are now under Perez's Witness Protection Program," he said.

The House has referred Erice's privilege speech to the House ethics committee for investigation, but committee chair Rep. Antonio Abaya said he wanted Erice to first file a complaint against Jimenez before the committee conducts a probe into the matter.

"We (the ethics committee) can investigate but I'm a little bit reluctant (to do so) unless there is a complainant," Abaya said in an interview yesterday.

Abaya said he did not want a repeat of a previous experience where he became the "instant complainant" when the committee investigated an issue that arose from a privilege speech.

But Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said Abaya could not refuse to investigate Erice's allegations. He said the matter was referred to the ethics committee by the chamber after Erice delivered his speech on Wednesday.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales said that in fairness to the rest of the members of the House of Representatives, Erice should identify the congressmen who received money from Jimenez.

Erice had said that he personally witnessed Jimenez distributing P50,000 checks to some congressmen last Christmas.

The Jimenez controversy continued to hound the budget deliberations in the House yesterday.

Gonzalez declared Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon out of order because of his continued line of questioning involving the Jimenez case during deliberations on the proposed budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Macarambon was questioning the DFA's haste in endorsing to the Department of Justice the request of the US government for Jimenez's extradition.

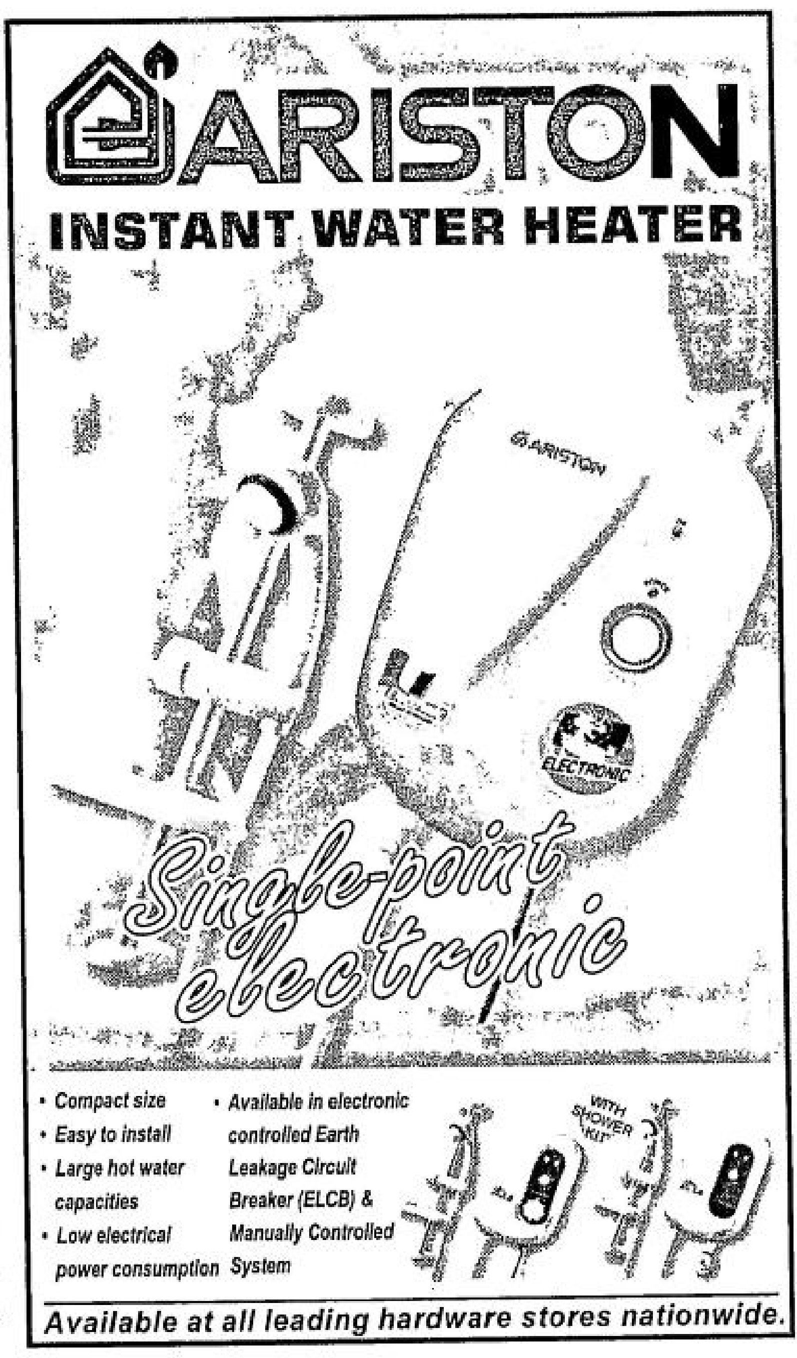
Gonzalez said it was time the House focused on approving the proposed P804.2-billion budget, rather than on the problems of Jimenez.

"There's a time for MJ and there's a time for the budget," he said. "The budget is important."

Abaya said there should be a "ceasefire" on the issue.

Majority Leader Gonzales said that while the House had been "sidetracked" by the "MJ" issue, the "budget deliberations" were "going on smoothly." He believed, he said, that 75-80 percent of congressmen are focused on the budget deliberations.

The approval yesterday of the DFA budget had to be deferred.



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CUTTING POWER GIANT DOWN TO SIZE

Sotto wants Meralco 'mega-franchise' split up

By Rocky Nazareno

THE "MEGA-FRANCHISE" that Manila Electric Co. is seeking should be broken up and renewed individually in the wake of the power utility's questionable capability to improve its services to more than 3.8 million power consumers.

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III called for the "splitting" of Meralco's "mega-franchise" if the power firm fails to justify the consolidation of its 52 existing franchises for the supply and distribution of electricity to most of parts of Luzon.

"If we are not satisfied with the justification for the consolidation of the Meralco franchises, then we would move for the split of the proposed mega-franchise," said Sotto, former chair of the Senate committee on public services.

Sotto said Meralco's 52 existing franchises should be renewed as they expire individually.

The Senate committee on public services, now chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, had already endorsed the approval of the Meralco "mega-franchise" which would consolidate the 52 franchises into one.

But Sotto vowed to block its approval, doubting the power firm's financial capability to expand operations.

"That's really a big question. If Meralco is financially broke, why give it expanded responsibility which it could not assume?" Sotto asked.

According to Sotto, Meralco should also explain how it plans to refund consumers P28 billion in overcharges for the last eight years. The Supreme Court ruled recently that Meralco overcharged its 3.8 million consumers in the past eight years and ordered the utility to refund its customers.

He added that Meralco should also reveal what the company is doing to "mitigate the impact of the power purchased adjustment (PPA)."

"We cannot support the Meralco mega franchise unless they are able to explain and satisfy us on these three issues—the P28-billion refund, its capabilities to service consumers with a mega-franchise and the PPA," Sotto averred.

Arroyo had earlier justified the approval of the Meralco mega-franchise and underscored that it needed the franchise all the more, now that the Supreme Court had ruled on the P28-billion in overcharges that the power utility has to return to consumers.

He pointed out that consumers may end up without a single centavo "because there would be no company to refund the overcharges" if Senate does not grant the franchise.

But Arroyo did note that consumers should not expect too much in refunds because it would be the huge electric consumers such as industrial and commercial users which would corner the biggest rebates.

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OPINION

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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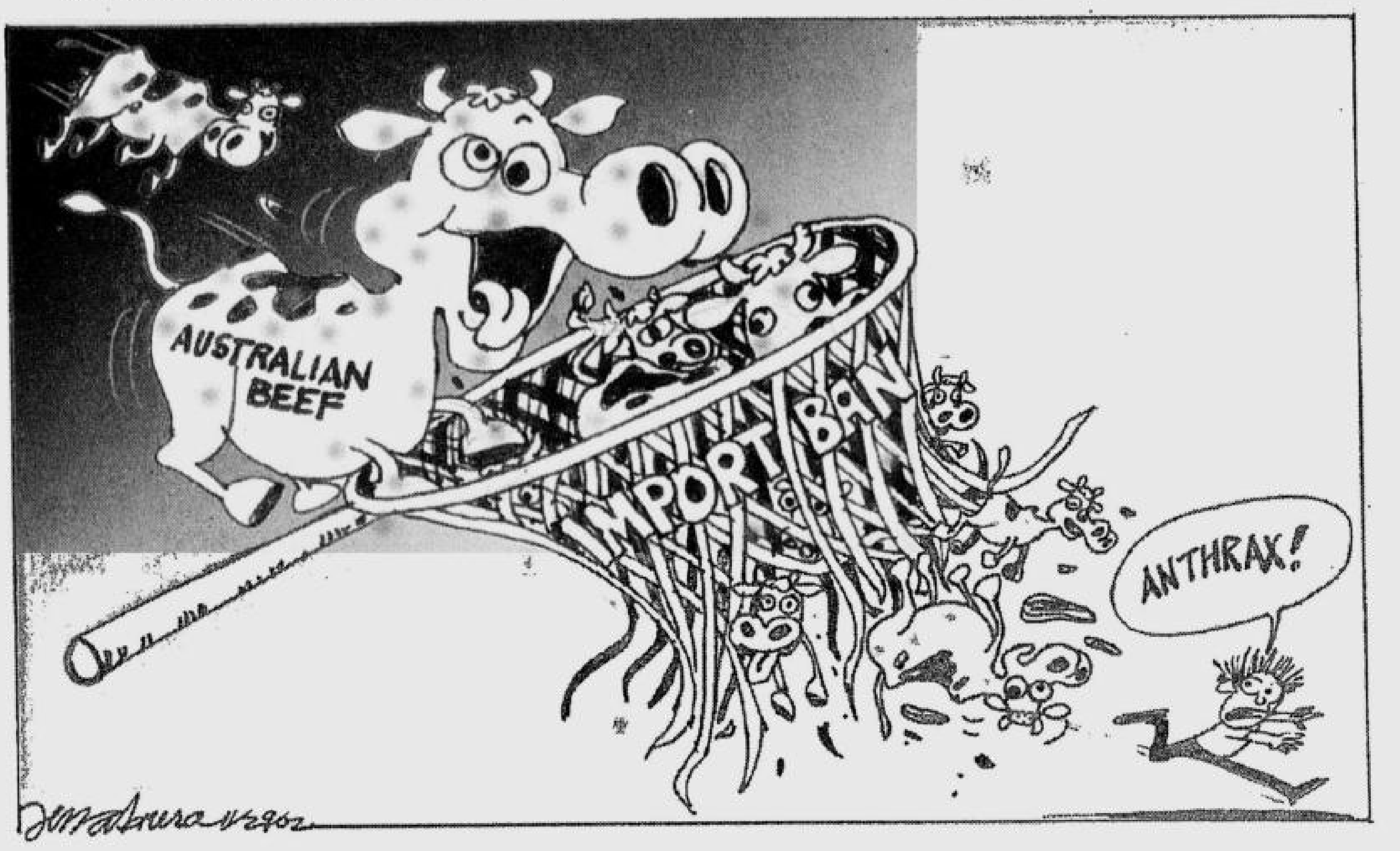


Light and shadow

EDITORIAL

THE CHARGE of bribery or extortion hurled by Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez against Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is turning into another case where the more people know, the more they do not know. Every time a key player comes forward to explain something, he also manages to put the case back in a muddle.

The latest to play this game of light and shadow is businessman Ernest Escaler, who arranged a series of meetings between Perez and Jimenez which the latter claimed to have culminated with him paying $2 million to buy peace of mind for his family. Jimenez said earlier that it was Escaler who had faxed to him the instruction to send the money to a Coutts Bank account in Hong Kong. On Wednesday, Escaler went on national television to deny that any of his bank accounts was ever used or opened in behalf of Perez. He said Hong Kong banking laws require the holder of an account to be the sole beneficial owner of that account. When asked if he had any bank transactions with Jimenez, however, Escaler refused to answer, saying that as a banker he was prohibited from revealing any information of that nature. But he added rather cryptically that if Jimenez would give him a "written permission to disclose the particulars of this $2-million transaction," then he would do so.

So by Escaler's own admission, he and Jimenez had a $2-million transaction, although he couldn't give its details. Was the deal then as simple and legitimate as changing Jimenez's dollars for pesos, as the congressman has predicted Escaler would say? If he did that, Jimenez said, Escaler would have a problem explaining where the pesos went since they didn't get into his hands. And this would only bring us back to the original mystery: the identity of the "million-dollar man."

It is also rather curious that Escaler would seek Jimenez's written consent before he discloses the particulars of the $2-million transaction. Jimenez himself has been talking about the alleged extortion in any forum he can find and linking Escaler to it. That should have been the go-signal for him to do some talking of his own. Besides, as Jimenez has pointed out, the Coutts Bank account isn't his, so what purpose would a waiver issued by him serve? If that account is Escaler's, then no one can bar him from revealing its contents. Why doesn't he get it over and done with? And why did he have to fly to the United States before clearing up matters?

Jimenez said the Coutts account is the key to the whole mystery. "If it will be made public, skeletons and carcasses will come out," he said. "If we open the bank account we will know to whom the money eventually went." At the same time, he said he had a video footage showing who received the $2 million he had transferred from his bank in Uruguay. He also disclosed that his lawyers are arriving in Manila today with documents supporting his allegations about a pay-off to Perez.

Now if Jimenez has all this evidence showing conclusively that Perez received the money, why is he still insisting that President Macapagal-Arroyo sign the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement with Hong Kong so that the government can ask for the opening of the mysterious Coutts account? Why doesn't he produce them now?

Everyone involved in this case has been acting like a poker player, bluffing and calling one another's bluff and going through the whole routine again. But this game has been going on for too long. It's time for everyone to lay down all his cards.

Failure of the West

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE OIL spill from the tanker Prestige which sank in the Atlantic Ocean off the Spanish coast demonstrates the inability or inadequacy of the world's most advanced nations to prevent environmental disasters.

We know that similar incidents have occurred in the past and are bound to be repeated in the future because the transport of enormous quantities of oil from one part of the world to another cannot stop—it means survival for our energy-starved civilization.

The dependence of the West on oil imports mainly from the Middle East postpones from year to year the implementation of concrete measures to reduce environmental damage—related to obtaining energy from oil—caused by the emission of harmful gases from cars and industries.

Vested economic interests linked to oil have caused the failure of environmental conferences from Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg. More specifically those same interests prevented European Union leaders at their 2000 summit in Nice, France from introducing controls on oil tankers such as the Prestige which continue to evade EU safety norms.

La Stampa (Turin, Italy)

Jobseekers getting non-vacant positions

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TIMES must be really bad. Jobs are so scarce that it is not only the workers who are looking for jobs; the government itself is hunting for jobs to give to favored and influential jobseekers. And this is the season when jobhunting is particularly acute cushy positions to political leaders and their families in exchange for votes. In fact, it is so acute that the government is appointing camp followers to positions that are not vacant, thus stealing jobs away from those who are occupying them.

The latest victim of this squeeze play is Nixon Cua, general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority. Malacañang has just appointed Robert Dean Barbers to Cua's position, which is not vacant. "There can be no valid appointment for a position which is not vacant," ruled the Court of Appeals in Gordon v. Payumo. Cua has not resigned; neither has he abandoned his office. He has not been charged with any offense to justify his removal. He has a fixed term of office of six years which won't expire until 2006. But what are all those if the new appointee is the son of a senator, Sen. Robert Barbers no less?

It is not as if the Barbers family is starving and so the son must be given a job. Aside from Robert the father being a senator, a son, Robert Ace Barbers, is a congressman; a second son, Robert Lyndon Barbers, is governor of Surigao del Norte; and now the third son, Robert Dean Barbers, has just been appointed PTA manager. Besides their generous salaries, the senator and the congressman have their multi-million-peso pork barrel allocation, the governor has his various allowances from the provincial government, and the PTA is known as a fat cash cow. Robert Dean ran for vice mayor of Makati and lost. So he has to be given a job.

The Barbers boys have a soft spot for the Department of Tourism. Robert Lyndon, whose citizenship, by the way, and therefore his qualification as governor, is being questioned. He must have told his brother that it is a nice, cushy job. Like the DOT secretary, the PTA manager gets to travel all over the world, allegedly to promote Philippine tourism. (What all that travel does actually, is to promote the tourism of other countries, as their entourage add to the tourists going to those countries.) in fact, the PTA manager is better off than the tourism secretary. While the DOT is dependent on a budget appropriated by Congress, the PTA is not. It means hundreds of millions of pesos from the travel tax that travelers pay when they buy plane tickets and leave the airport. That is why so many hungry jobseekers covet the PTA managership. And that is why Cua is fighting tooth and nail to keep his job. He doesn't want his family to starve.

But who is Nixon Cua compared to the powerful Barbers family? A presidential candidate will need them to deliver votes in 2004. And Barbers, the senator, may jump to the opposition side in the Senate, where the administration holds a very slim majority, if he is not made happy. If he is unhappy, the administration may lose the Senate presidency and the key committees in the Senate. Imagine what that will do to the chances of the administration's presidential candidate.

So Nixon Cua might as well resign himself to the same fate that befell his namesake, Richard Nixon, who was ousted from the presidency of the United States. Also, he can assuage himself with the thought that he is not alone, having his job stolen from him. Before him, there was Deputy Customs Commissioner Emma Rosqueta whose successor was appointed by Malacañang although her position was not vacant. She fought in court and she was restored as deputy commissioner. Before her, there was the brother of National Labor Relations Chairman Roy Señeres, a career executive. Like Cua and Rosqueta, Señeres had not resigned, his position was not vacant, he was not transferred to another position, and he had not been charged with any offense. But leave it to government lawyers to find an excuse to replace government officials and employees protected by the Civil Service Law and the Constitution.

The supreme irony is that the pending ouster of Cua seems to have the blessings of his boss, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. Gordon was also a victim of a similar squeeze play when he was replaced—and he fought back—by former Congressman Tong Payumo as chief of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

* * *

Also ironic and still on the Barbers boys, the senator summoned imported basketball stars playing for Philippine teams to the Senate to question their Filipino citizenship. This, after they were allowed to play for Philippine teams in international competitions. The irony is that the Filipino citizenship of one of his sons, Robert Lyndon Smith Barbers, governor of Surigao del Norte, is also being questioned.

Robert Lyndon is said to be a naturalized American citizen. He is using an American passports. He wrote in his embarkation cards that he was an American citizen. Documentary evidence from the United States show that, Robert Lyndon, Filipino by birth, renounced his Filipino citizenship and became a US citizen through naturalization on Oct. 11, 1991. When he ran for governor, his candidacy was opposed on the ground that he is not a Filipino citizen. Nevertheless, he was allowed to run, and won before the Commission on Elections could reach a decision. When it finally came to a decision, the Comelec declared Robert Lyndon a Filipino citizen.

The Comelec's reasons: That Robert Lyndon also carries a Philippine passport, that he was appointed director of the DOT, his appointment papers duly certified by the Civil Service Commission.

The opposers have appealed to the Supreme Court. His term is about to end but the tribunal has not yet made up its mind whether he is a Filipino or an American.

Price to pay

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CAUGHT it on TV last week, news of the FPJ for President Movement soliciting signatures from the public at Nepa Q Mart urging "Ang Panday" to run for president in 2004. The vendors and their customers were busily signing the petition. One of the leaders of the Movement said proudly they were not paying or coercing anyone to sign, this was pure voluntarism. I could believe it, given the way the vendors tried to grab the microphone from the TV reporters to unburden themselves of their thoughts. Which were flattering to the King of the Tills and unflattering to the Queen of the Billboards.

So, is FPJ going to run?

You ask people that, including those presumably in the know, and you'll get as many answers as people you ask. The answers have more to do with what people want than with what the evidence says. I've been asked the same question, and I've answered quite honestly that I don't know. I suspect not even FPJ himself does.

The upside for Poe is the presidency itself. If he runs, he will be the candidate to beat, notwithstanding the Lakas leaders publicly scoffing at his chances. I've heard of informal surveys pitting FPJ and GMA, and the results, to put it charitably, are again flattering to the King and unflattering to the Queen. I myself think those results do not just reflect the undiminished popularity of FPJ, they also reflect the growing unpopularity of GMA. Hence, the often mind-boggling one-sidedness of the results.

The downside for Poe is the same thing as the upside. That is the presidency itself. What may be the pinnacle of achievement for others may be the pit of misfortune for him. The question for him quite simply is: "What's in it for me?"

There are differences between FPJ and Erap. Foremost of them is that Erap quit making movies a long time ago while FPJ continues to do so to this day. FPJ doesn't just produce and direct them, he appears in them. Often with infinitely younger leading ladies (he was already FPJ when I was wearing short pants, so I have an idea of the disparity in ages), but which for some reason does little to subvert the suspension of disbelief of moviegoers. He is the eternal hero, he never ages. FPJ does not need the aggravation. Whenever he is in dire need of cash, which is hard to imagine after all these years, he can always make a movie. In his case, that is pretty much the same thing as making money.

He becomes president, he won't be able to make movies—though I wouldn't put it past a president of this country to do so, given that senators today insist on broadcasting and advertising detergents while holding public office. Someone can always jack up the ante. More to the point, he becomes a president like Erap, he won't be able to make movies *afterward*. Myth and reality will clash, with not very savory results on his image, and the tills.

Which brings us to another difference between Erap and FPJ. Even before Erap went into politics, he was already essaying roles that bordered on the *kontrabida*, or antihero. He was the original Bad Boy of Philippine Movies. FPJ has always been a benign, larger-than-life, messianic figure: the quick-draw artist who saves a village from marauders (Daniel Barrion), the honest cop who cleanses a city of its dregs (Mediavillo), the sword-wielder who keeps the land safe from *aswangs*, *tikbalangs*, and other subterranean creatures (*Ang Panday*). FPJ's characters in movies do not die and are never beaten. They are not tainted by a flaw remotely resembling any of the seven cardinal sins.

Even in private life, FPJ has kept a squeaky clean image. Or at least he has managed to keep it away from prying eyes. There is a tacit rule among entertainment "scribes" that FPJ's private life is off limits, a rule no one has broken over the last four (or is it five?) decades. Where Erap's personal affairs (in more ways than one) have been fair game for the media—at least so when he entered politics—FPJ's have not.

All that will change if he enters politics. Of course he will continue to enjoy the adulation of fans, whom he can count on to vote for him. But he will also have enemies. As an entertainer, FPJ has no enemies, only friends and diehard fans. As a politician, he will have enemies aplenty, including detractors and resolute critics. Politics is a natural magnet for enmity, and muckraking. His private life will not remain private for very long, it will be an object of fierce scrutiny. And there will be no silent rule binding reporters or columnists to write only favorable things about him, or not to dredge up unsavory details about him.

More to the point, he becomes president and Daniel Barrion, Mediavillo and *Ang Panday* will be shoved into the background to reveal a flesh-and-blood person flailing against more formidable foes than marauding gangs, crooked cops and the *malignos* of the night. That doesn't mean the myth will crumble entirely. Erap himself, despite being less a larger-than-life hero than FPJ, and despite having stopped making movies a long time ago, has remained unassailable in the eyes of his legions, even after the impeachment trial. He is still *Asiong Salonga*, the Philippine Robin Hood. FPJ will remain shrouded in myth in the same role (in more ways than one) as president, but his mythical stature will also be laid low by the slings and arrows of outrageous reality before the general public. Not the sort of thing anyone dreaming only of peace of mind and idle contentment would want to inflict on himself.

That is the price to pay for ambition. Dolphy once quipped, "*Madaling tumakbo, e kung manalo?*" ("Easy to run, but what if I win?") That is the question FPJ will have to ask himself, with a lot less canned laughter.

Switching the burden of proof

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

USING his privilege of parliamentary immunity, Rep. Mark Jimenez has gone on a rampage to attack Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for allegedly "extorting" $2 million from him for reasons that have not been satisfactorily explained.

This vicious attack has been marked by utter disregard of evidence to back seriously the charges he hurled at Perez and has been directed to turn public opinion against Perez rather than to substantiate the charges. This reckless attack has been abetted by the abuse of parliamentary privilege. It was launched in the context of an imminent Supreme Court decision on a motion for reconsideration filed by Jimenez against the Sept. 24 Court decision canceling the P1-million bail he has posted in connection with the extradition case filed against him.

The latest antic of Jimenez in response to the challenge by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that he substantiate his charges was to call for the President to seek the cooperation of Hong Kong authorities to open the Coutts Bank Account 13706. This account, he said, would prove his accusations that the $2 million was paid to Perez.

This move is preposterous. It shifts to the accused the onus of providing evidence to prove Jimenez's allegations. When Jimenez was asked to back the allegations he made in his privilege speech, he shirked the responsibility of backing them with evidence to the accused. This move is akin to handing an accused a knife and asking him to kill himself. It is at the same time a way out for Jimenez to claim that, if the account in Hong Kong is not opened, the responsibility for keeping it sealed lies with the government.

This trick, as well as the use of parliamentary immunity as a stage to launch scurrilous attacks, shows that Jimenez was never serious in submitting to the rigorous regime of backing charges with evidence and that he is engaged in a sweeping smear campaign not only against Perez but also against the administration fueled by unsubstantiated yarns about alleged extortion and mysterious money transfers for which there is no evidence to link bank accounts to names of persons.

Jimenez has been a problem to the US government over charges of income tax evasion, mail fraud, illegal campaign contributions, conspiracy and false statements—offenses for which the US is seeking his extradition to stand trial on these charges. In seeking refuge in this country, Jimenez has spawned a swathe of problems with our legislative and legal systems. He is using the legislature to shield himself from being extradited and, worse, using it as a platform for launching a media offensive against officials doing their job of following the process of extradition. He is wreaking havoc on the judicial process by disregarding evidence as the basis for serious accusations of a serious offense (extortion) and overturning the legal principle that requires the burden of proof to fall on the accuser and not the accused.

Since he is unable to produce evidence on his own, Jimenez has in fact turned his smear campaign into a publicity circus where he seeks maximum mileage. This campaign is addressed to the emotions and he has used the media as the arena of his attacks instead of taking his case to the calm setting of the courts of justice. The use of congressional immunity as the staging ground for retaliation against official moves to have him extradited degrades the purpose of that immunity—i.e. as a mechanism by members of Congress to exercise the freedom of speech in aid of legislation and to defend the legislature against the abuse by the executive in the system of checks and balances. Instead, Jimenez is using the legislative arena to disseminate unverified and unsubstantiated allegations, and a weapon to stall extradition.

But Jimenez's antics are backfiring on him. To being with his thuggish behavior toward the media and those drawing out hard information from him has put off public opinion. By contrast, Perez has been calm in answering the charges. Between Jimenez's versions of the events that took place in his meetings with Perez in his home over his offer to turn state witness against former President Estrada, whom Jimenez betrayed, and those of Perez giving the public a chance to judge for themselves who is more credible.

The more Jimenez shows his face on TV and the more he tries to intimidate and cut short those who put questions to him to draw out factual explanations, the more he loses sympathy and credibility. In the arena of public opinion, credibility is as important as making a case in the courts. And while whipping up emotions is fair game in the propaganda battle for public opinion, an emotional approach has only limited value. The public will eventually have to ask, where's the proof, for evidence is the foundation for credibility.

Jimenez's emotional outbursts have not won him public sympathy. His thuggish approach in his media exposure alienates the public and shifts sympathy to Perez. In the terrain of his own choice, Jimenez is losing ground because his explanations and inventions stretch credulity to breaking point. If, indeed, Jimenez wants to bring down the administration that is seeking to have him extradited, he should have more solid ammunition than supporting his charges with bathos and media upmanship.

The more Jimenez speaks, the more he spreads confusion. But he needs confusion to mask his inability to produce hard evidence to back his charges.

Learning from each other

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOMETIMES, it seems that we're living in two countries, or in one country but on two levels of reality.

While on the national level, we're all agog with the mud-flinging between Justice Secretary Nani Perez and "financial genius" Rep. Mark Jimenez, in towns and cities around the country, mayors and other local officials are carrying on the real work of governance.

At the national level, everyone's attention is fixed on the pending Cabinet revamp, who plans to run in the 2004 elections, and the seemingly ceaseless debates between and among our executive officials, congresspersons and senators. At the local level, local executives and council members, NGO's and people's organizations, even local church authorities, are looking for ways to pool resources and work together for the good of the people.

Perhaps that explains the feeling among an increasing number of concerned folks that change in this country will not follow the "top-down" model. Rather, our society will be transformed by initiatives taken by "lowly" communities, and that, if they are able to inspire other communities, to follow their footsteps, the changes they initiate could ignite into a national movement.

This may be the reason that the Women in Politics Institute (WPI), the national partner of the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (Capwip), has committed to "be of service to LGUs who share our vision of transformative leadership and transformative citizenship toward the building of transformative communities." For much of the past year, Remmy Rikken of WPI, along with the husband-and-wife team of Nonong and Jean Llorin, have been giving orientations to mayors in Bicol on "Gender Responsive Governance." To bring the orientation one step further into action and implementation, WPI organized last week, with funding support from the Ford Foundation, a study-tour for local government leaders in Bicol and Palawan to learn first-hand about "best practices" in health delivery in Bohol and Cebu.

* * *

THE GOAL of the study-tour, said Rikken, was not just to show what other LGUs had been able to do despite their funding constraints and the structural barriers they faced, but also to get the tour members to think about and start planning what they could do in their own areas.

Each city or town was represented by a delegation composed of the mayor, the municipal health officer and one councilor. The participating LGUs were: Sorsogon City; Irosin, Sorsogon; San Fernando, Goa, Del Gallego, and Canaman in Camarines Sur; Libon, Albay; and Aborlan, Palawan.

The mayors were a varied lot. Mayor Sally Lee of Sorsogon City, for instance, is a political neophyte, for though her husband is the governor of Sorsogon, she had refused to meddle in his political career, save for campaigning for him. A deeply religious woman, she had prayed for "signs" to show her whether she should join politics as friends and supporters had urged her "to make a difference." Having received those signs, she now says she's determined to indeed make a difference for her new city, which is why when she took part in the first congress of women local leaders early this year, "I pounced on Remmy and said she would have to help me become the best kind of mayor I could be."

* * *

MAYOR Celsa Adier of Aborlan likewise considers herself an innocent in politics. A schoolteacher for decades, she ran on a platform of "education," reasoning that an educated population makes for a committed and cooperative constituency. Plainspoken and direct in manner, she takes a practical, down-to-brass-tacks approach to governance, as to most matters in life, as her rib-tickling asides and jokes show.

Mayor Marcel Pan of Goa, on the other hand, says he's grateful for his "corporate" experience in San Miguel Corp., where he was in beer sales. The business background, he reasons, enabled him to bring an analytical, rational and streamlined approach to his programs as mayor. In fact, Mayor Pan is a "Galing Pook" awardee this year for the manner in which he pruned the workforce of the municipal government into a leaner and more efficient "machine."

* * *

REMARKABLE indeed was the eagerness among the study-tour members and the local officials they met to share their experiences and "best practices." Mayor Pan and his medical officer, Dr. Diosdado Fuentebella, for instance, were quite proud of their decision to source their medicine supply directly through the Department of Health. "When we dealt with individual suppliers and drug companies," recalled Mayor Pan, "we were quoted prices that we thought were quite high, although the suppliers reasoned that our orders did not give them enough volume to justify deep discounts." They were convinced to approach the DOH when they asked DOH to send them a list of their drug purchases and the corresponding prices, which were about half those quoted to them, simply because DOH could order huge volumes. All it took was a memorandum of agreement to arrange for the purchase of medicines through DOH, resulting in an overall savings of P189,000 for the town. Mayor Lee and her medical officer, Dr. Inocencio Lee, also shared with the group such innovations as the "walking blood bank," actually a massive blood-typing program among the residents, so that, if anyone was ever in need of blood donors, the city health office would immediately have a list of potential donors of the needed blood type. Another innovation is the "floating clinic," a medical team that visits remote coastal barangays by boat to provide health services as well as train residents on basic health concerns.

Fascinating appendices to Ricarte's memoirs

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN 1963, during the birth centennial of Andres Bonifacio, the now defunct National Heroes Commission published the "Memoirs of Artemio Ricarte." Since materials by Bonifacio himself are scarce, students of history have to turn to the memoirs and recollections of contemporaries to know more about the Supremo of the Katipunan. Ricarte's engaging memoirs have had a long publication life since it was first privately published in Yokohama in 1927 as "Himagsikan nang manga Filipino laban sa Kastila." An English translation was published in 1963, reprinted over the years until the 1990s when a Ricarte monument was erected in his hometown Batac, Ilocos Norte. Because his memoirs remain accessible to researchers, Ricarte is always cited by those writing on the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War. What I found amusing was Armando J. Malay's introduction to the 1963 edition where he asks the reader how Ricarte should be remembered—as a hero or a scheming opportunist? One would think that historians would have consensus by now, but then Malay's question remains. The 1963 edition of the memoirs, with numerous appendices from various sources, was meant to provide readers with the material to form their own conclusions because history and historians take forever to reach a verdict. There are always too many angles with which to view history. If only things were as simple and one-dimensional as textbooks. As a historian the various documents in the appendix are more fascinating than the memoirs. Here we find Ricarte's police record from 1900 to 1907; Ricarte's first order to the so-called "Vibora Regiment" in 1900; Ricarte's scheme of government for a Gobierno Republicano Universal Democrata Filipino in 1903 that he hoped would replace the American colonial government; etc. Most eccentric was the draft constitution he wrote on the summit of Mt. Halcon in Mindoro on August 1914 that would rename the Philippine Islands into the Rizaline Islands. Citizens of this country formerly known as Filipinos would be called "Rizalines."

Being a military man he divided the Philippines into six military zones each named after a "Rizaline" hero: First zone covering Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Abra, Ilocos Sur, La Union. Nueva Vizcaya, Lepanto, Bontoc and Benguet was known as the Burgos Zone further subdivided into the following districts: Pingkian (pseudonym of Emilio Jacinto), General Luna and General Tirona district. Second Zone was the Jocson Zone comprising Pangasinan, Zambales, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija further subdivided into the following districts: General San Miguel, General Hizon, and Paco Roman (aide to General Luna and assassinated with his boss in 1899). Third Zone was the Bonifacio zone comprising the provinces of Mindoro, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Tayabas, Marinduque, Ambos Camarines, Albay and Sorsogon further subdivided into the Paterno, Mabini, Panganiban, and Tungkod districts. Tungkod was the psuedonym of Colonel Mariano Barroga who like Ricarte was exiled to Guam. One could go on and study the way Ricarte divided the Rizaline Islands and get a glimpse into his mind. One could pay closer attention to the names of the military zones and districts to understand his construction of the pantheon of heroes. The Constitution of the Rizaline Islands may not have gotten off the planning stage but it says a lot about its author.

The appendices also contain a stenographic report of Ricarte's interrogation in Manila by the police and the Philippine constabulary. If these notes are accurately taken, and if we had access to the original language (Did Ricarte answer in Spanish? Tagalog? Or maybe Ilocano?) we could get an idea into the manner in which he spoke but the notes read as follows:

"Question: What is your name?

"Answer: Artemio Ricarte 'Vibora'

"Q: What office do you hold?"

"A: General of the Dictatorial Triumvirate government of the Philippines.

"Q: What Government is that and who appointed you, and where does he have his headquarters?

"A: The dictatorial Triumvirate Government of the Philippines has the object of attaining the much desired liberty of the Philippines; it is made up of three persons representing, first, the island of Luzon and adjacent islands; second the Visayas, and third the islands of Mindanao and Jolo, because, according to my judgement, independence having been accomplished, civil war among the Filipinos will thus be avoided. Before my arrival in these islands Mssrs. Almarines, Muñoz and San Jose composed said government. No one appointed me. Further, when I arrived in these islands I took charge of said government as I did not know where to find the central government."

The rest of the interrogation revealed his disappointment with Filipinos who didn't want to be involved in restarting the Philippine Revolution. He returned to Hong Kong and moved to Japan. In 1941 he was returned to the Philippines by the Japanese and yet again his call for revolution went unheeded. He died in the Cordilleras in 1945. His place in history still hotly debated despite a wealth of historical data. If you think the wheels of justice grind slowly, try that of history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Hawaii gets its first female governor

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—While we've had two female presidents in not even one generation (if we reckon generation as covering, say, 20 years), other nations, including the US, are still striving to have their first female heads of state. There is a lot of speculation on when the first American female president would be elected. Some say 2008, assuming that Bush would most likely be reelected in 2004, if he is able to maintain his high popularity ratings. Hillary Clinton, currently US senator from New York, is highly touted as a "possible first." But, who knows, since there has been an increasing number of women being elected on the national and state levels in recent years.

The recently concluded 2002 elections have yielded a bumper crop of female candidates who emerged victorious in their bids for congressional and gubernatorial positions. It is interesting to note that belonging to a political dynasty and name recognition may not necessarily lead to an easy victory anymore in this day and age. While most of the female candidates for governor won, Kathleen Kennedy Townsende of the magical Kennedy name lost her quest for the governorship of Maryland in the November elections.

But Hawaii in the middle of the Pacific Ocean has made history by electing its first female governor, a Republican to boot, in the person of Linda Lingle, originally from Missouri, who won by an impressive margin of 17,000. The amazing thing is that, even if she lost, Hawaii would still have had its first female governor because Lingle's opponent was also a woman—Mazie Hirono, of Japanese-American ancestry, who ran as a Democrat. It was a battle between two women who had reached the top of their respective political parties. Lingle, after being defeated by Filipino-American Ben Cayetano in 1998, rose to become head of a very-much energized Republican Party. Hirono was elected with Cayetano as lieutenant governor.

This was only the second time in U.S. history that two women running against each other for the top post of their respective states has happened. The first time was in 1986, in Nebraska when Republican Kay Orr defeated Democratic candidate Helen Boosalis. In the 2002 Hawaii gubernatorial contest, the slogan was, "May the best woman win."

Looking back, the first female governors elected were Nellie Taylor Ross of Wyoming and Miriam "Ma" Ferguson of Texas in the 1924 gubernatorial races. According to reporter Lee Catterall of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, the New York Times then wondered in a light vein, what it should call these first female governors: Governess? Governorine? Governette? In time, Catterall continues, the Times simply settled on governor.

In its editorial, the Times commented: "And why not? If they make good governors, it will not be because they are women, but because they have sense, intelligence and character, and if they make bad ones—but of course they will not—and to give any thought to that abhorrent contingency would be discourteously premature and worthy only of a woman-hater."

There was one thing in common between the first two female governors. They were essentially tied to their husbands' names and political careers. Ferguson's husband "Pa," was impeached as governor of Texas. Ross' husband had been governor of Wyoming but he died a month before the 1924 election. Nellie, his wife, became the Democratic nominee to finish his term. After failing in her reelection bid, she was appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt as the first female director of the US Mint, a position she held in the next 20 years.

As of 2002 (before the November elections), there have been 19 female governors in American history, 12 elected and seven appointed. By comparison, 31 women have served in the US Senate, with 19 elected and 12 appointed. Since there are half as many governors' seats as US Senate seats, the figures are comparable.

Catterall's research yielded the fact that Western states in the US provided the first political opportunities for women. "Wyoming's territorial legislature adopted women suffrage in 1869, and it was christened the Equality State upon attaining statehood in 1890 for being the first to allow women the right to vote. Men outnumbered women by a ratio of six to one in 1869, so posed no political threat, while sponsors hoped the publicity would attract newcomers, especially women."

Since then, Western states have been more promising in terms of producing female politicians. An expert on women and politics, quoted by Catterall, attributes this phenomenon to qualities of "free openness, the free spirit, the willingness to change" in the Western states. By contrast, the traditional culture in the South seems to inhibit the rise of women politicians in great numbers compared to the Western part of the country.

Hawaii, of course, is no stranger to "women power". It was a sovereign nation that had a reigning Queen, Liliuo'kalani, who was unfortunately overthrown in 1893 by American missionary and business interests intent on annexing Hawaii to the US. There were other female members in the royal line such as Queen Emma and Princess Kaiulani.

In more recent times, women have occupied high positions in Hawaii and US government. Patsy Mink, who died recently, was a longtime congresswoman and one of the strongest voices for equality in America. Before Hirono, another woman, Jean King, had served as lieutenant governor of the state. And another Republican, Pat Saiki, had been elected to the US House of Representatives for two terms, and had also run, albeit unsuccessfully, as governor of Hawaii.

And there was a time when all the mayors in the counties of Maui, Big Island and Kauai were women, including Lingle herself, who was Maui mayor for two terms and County Council member before launching her bid for the governorship in 1998.

Lingle's victory is a bittersweet one because she got elected in a traditionally democratic state. People thought there was no way a Republican could get elected in a heavily Democratic state. The last Republican governor was William Quinn, who was defeated by the new Democratic leader John Burns in 1962. This is known in contemporary Hawaii history as the "Democratic revolution," which empowered the state's working classes and dislodged the "Republican Party of the Rich." The Democrats would rule the roost for the next 40 years. Perhaps too long. It was time to change. Interestingly, Ben Cayetano, the "poor boy from Kalihi" of Pangasinan ancestry, is presiding over the end of an era in Hawaii politics.

There are now enough women governors and US senators and anyone of them could emerge as a frontrunner for the presidency of the US in the near future. These are the positions that are often seen as stepping stones to the presidency. A clearer pattern of women and politics as far as the presidency is concerned is bound to emerge in the next five or six years.

Belinda A. Aquino introduced a course on women and politics in the Third World in the political science department of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

‘Conspiracy of silence’ on AIDS

DEC. 1st is World AIDS Day, the primary purpose of which is awareness about the deadly disease. In the Philippines, it’s a big failure once again, except for an isolated activity held in Pasay City.

As I have written in the past two years, the Philippines is losing the battle against AIDS. World AIDS Day is commemorated only once a year and still the many NGOs and GOs cannot even organize a nationwide all-out campaign just for a day! The Church and some religious fanatics are still involved in the “conspiracy of silence,” which the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called for an end to as it’s “contributing to widespread ignorance about the virus.” “Hiding AIDS behind a curtain of stigma helps to spread it...Speaking out about AIDS helps slow it down,” Mr. Annan said.

Further failure would mean putting the next generation in jeopardy!

—ANTHONY CRUZ,
Quezon City Task Force on AIDS

The need for better national leaders

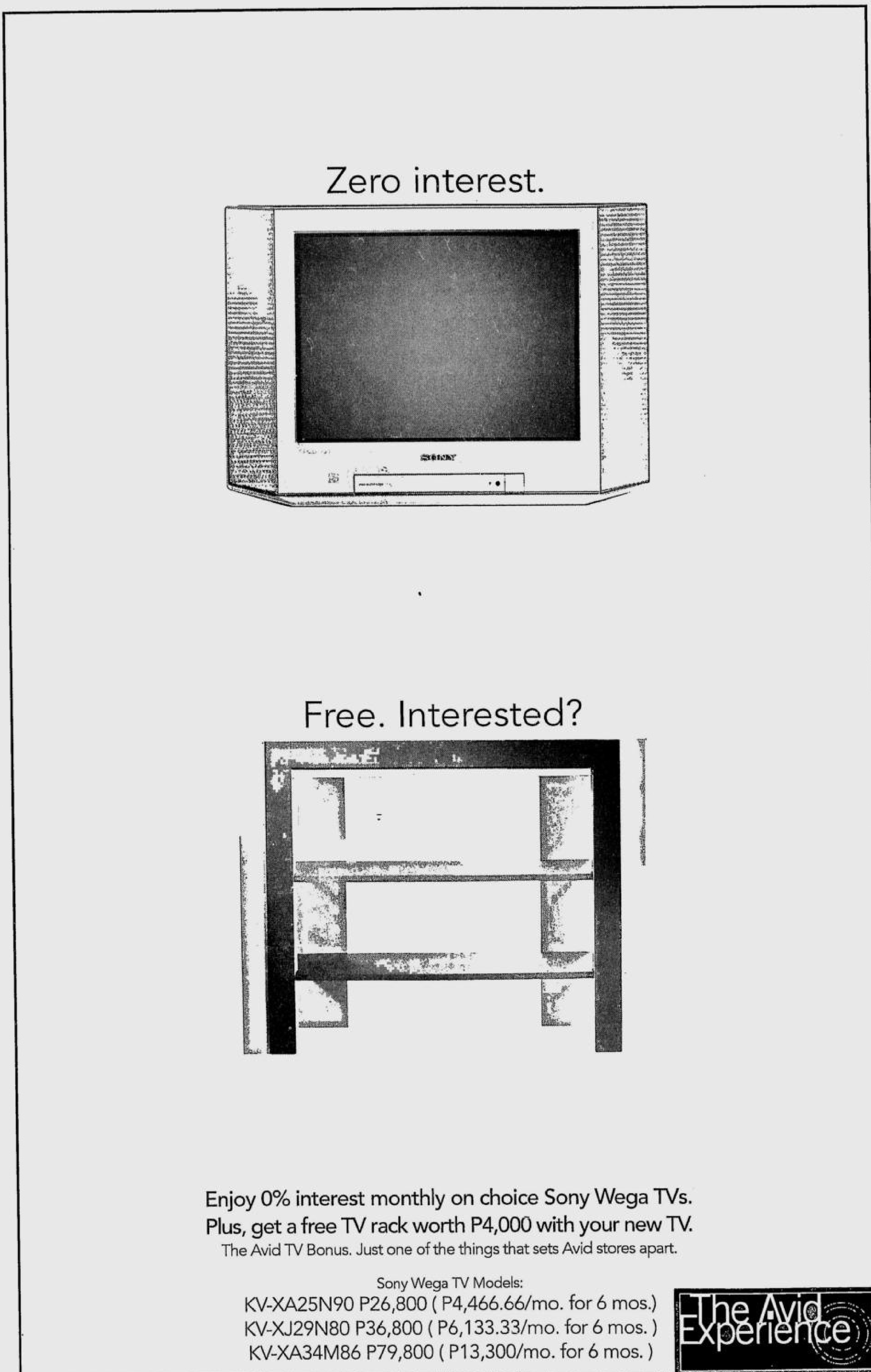
PROF. RANDY DAVID'S 'Two heroes, two nations' (PDI, 11/24/02) is an insightful piece about Cuba's and the Philippines' historical, political, social and economic scenarios. I agree with his observation about how socialism has been good to Cuba and how rich Cubans are in national pride. But I strongly disagree with his opinion that for the Philippines there has got to be a better system than what we have today.

I think we do not need a better system but better people at the helm of the present system. For in my view, it will eventually and entirely depend on the individuals running the system. Or to be more specific, on those individuals' personal, moral and, yes, even psychological convictions.

The closest analogy I can think of is that of a driver driving a bus to a certain destination. The driver is the theoretical leader, the passengers are the citizenry, and the bus is the system. No matter how roadworthy the bus is, its workings and the fate of the passengers are at the mercy of the driver. Will he be a reckless or a responsible driver? Will he direct the passengers to the right path? Or will he just abandon them in the middle of the road?

Democracy, socialism, totalitarianism —it really does not matter what the system is called. It is only when good leaders take the wheel in our country that national pride can become real and tangible and we can hold it in our hands for all the world to see.

—ABIGAIL V. FLORES,
bluebelle@yahoo.com,
San Juan Bano,
Arayat, Pampanga



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4848 Series of 2002

On the ‘$2M man’ exposé

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

NOW that I know that Bulacan Congressman Wilfredo Villarama’s source for accusing Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was Manila Congressman Mark Jimenez, and then I hear that Jimenez is accusing Perez of extorting from him, what do you think? You cannot get blood from a turnip (Jimenez). Send him to the United States to face charges. As for Villarama, he should be investigated for malicious mischief. Those in the House who were calling for the impeachment of the Supreme Court justices in defense of Jimenez must be voted out. The only one who maintained his integrity on the Jimenez issue was Speaker Jose de Venecia. Keep him.—**Carlos**

* * *

It’s inevitable. Perez should resign from his post. He cannot go on pretending that he can be effective as a Cabinet member and expect doubts to disappear that he will not influence or manipulate any investigation of the allegations against him by Villarama and Sen. Panfilo Lacson. His staying in the Cabinet alone will provide the opposition big ammunition against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Already, Lacson found the weakness of the Catholic Church as a smokescreen to draw attention away from his rotten credibility. Sen. Edgardo Angara may also take his move against the President. We may even see Lacson and Angara proclaiming themselves as “champions of the *masa*” in 2004. How pathetic.

GMA should know better; she still has time to do her job. Clean up her Cabinet and catch up with nation-building. Too many photo-ops are actually hurting her chances for 2004.

God, help my country...It seems people are running out of options.—**Karaniwang_Tao**

* * *

Mark Jimenez finally sings! And it’s now getting clearer that all these alleged $2-million charges have everything to do with his extradition cases. His is a desperate move to deliver himself from the loneliness of a US jail. Obviously, he will do everything to free himself from all the mess that he is in right now. He will use drama, he will try to elicit pity, and he will involve his family and even Congress to get sympathy from the gullible among us.—**Froilan**

* * *

Trial by publicity, Perez? You’re getting the bitter taste of your own medicine, how do you like it?—**Easy**

* * *

If there is one dumb congressman who wants to have his cake and eat it, too, it’s Jimenez.

Not unlike his former patron and benefactor, Syerrap alias “Jose Velarde,” isn’t he?

Unable to prove his own accusations against an incumbent Cabinet member, Jimenez resorts to melodrama in his public interviews and even tries to muzzle his own colleagues in Congress when questioned about his own allegations after his so-called “privilege speech.” The last I’ve heard of him was that he ultimately avoided being interpellated, most probably because he would be exposed as nothing but a desperate man who would do anything to save his own hide from the long arm of US law.

As it was, this fellow devoted most of his tirades to his denunciations about the alleged abuse he and his family suffered at the hands of the Cabinet member and only mentioned almost in passing the matter about the alleged “bribery.” What was glaringly wanting in his speech was the lack of substantive, or at least plausible, proof that what he was charging was indeed true.

Mere photocopies of computer printouts containing nothing but a series of numbers (and unsigned at that) do not constitute plausible proof of the commission of a felony.

And to think that this man was accusing somebody of “extortion,” if he can be believed, to the tune of more than a hundred million pesos. And all he can show are those worthless scraps of paper?

Now he has belatedly presented his so-called signed documents. But nowhere do they prove the connection or culpability of the persons he is accusing for the illegal transaction he was a party to.

Neither do they prove on their faces the commission of any illegal act.

But the final word is that the declaration itself from the bank involved that neither the Cabinet member nor his brother-in-law has an account now or before with the same bank nor does the bank have an account of which either of the two individuals are the beneficial owners. Now, can there be any more categorical proof of the falsity of the allegations of this impostor of a congressman?—**Rolly S.**

* * *

The President challenged Jimenez to substantiate his claims in 30 days and if he cannot, then he should apologize to Perez.

She can give her administrative officials a deadline but not Jimenez, a member of Congress. Such a deadline is a discourtesy to a member of a co-equal branch of the government.

After more than a year and 50 witnesses, the Macapagal administration still cannot substantiate its charges against former president Joseph Estrada. Until now it’s still fishing for evidence. Have we heard an apology from the Macapagal administration? No!

Corpus, Wycoco and Nani Perez hurled charges against Lacson in the media without evidence. After a year of fishing for evidence while spending the taxpayer’s money with the authority of the President, they still cannot substantiate their charges against Lacson! Have we heard an apology from Ms Macapagal and her goons? No!

What a hypocritical bunch of moral dwarves who claim to be morally superior.—**conway**

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN arms experts laud Iraq cooperation

BAGHDAD—UN arms experts have expressed satisfaction with Iraq's initial cooperation with the first inspections in four years but were wary about any excess enthusiasm, saying cooperation had to be measured over the long term.

Although no hitch was reported, Iraq was given new warning that it must fully cooperate with the United Nations over its suspected chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs and preparations for a possible conflict were pursued by the United States.

The UN inspectors enjoyed full access on their first visits to two sites in the Baghdad region Wednesday.

"The team was able to complete the inspection work as it planned with the cooperation of the Iraqi side, and we had access to what we wanted to see," said Jacques Baute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who led one team to a northeastern suburb of Baghdad.

"It's a good start," said Baute, while adding that the "degree of cooperation needs to be judged over the long term" with more than 700 suspect sites still to be checked.

The former women's prison now a complex called "Defiance," was singled out by the IAEA for a three-hour visit because it houses facilities of Iraq's state body for military industrialization.

A second squad of UN inspectors went unannounced to a graphite factory at Al-Amiriya, 70 km west of the capital. The site was inspected by UN experts between 1991 and 1998.

"We managed to do all the things that we planned to do," said Dimitri Perricos, who led the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Mission (UNMOVIC) team. "We got the activities and the data we wanted to get in order to be able to assess further the capabilities of the sites."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in Paris, said the first disarmament mission since UN inspectors fled in Dec. 1998 ahead of US and British air strikes against Iraq appeared to be off to "a fairly good start."

But he told French radio "there must be sustained cooperation to avoid a military conflict."

Many nations are now dubious that a conflict can be avoided. And Iraq said its ground defenses had opened fire at British and US air patrols over no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq as world attention focused on the weapons inspections.

In Berlin, Germany's Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who has been a staunch opponent of military action, said US and NATO forces could use bases in Germany and its air space if strikes were ordered against Iraq.

The United States is sending two envoys to Europe next week to follow up US requests for assistance in the event of military action against Iraq, a senior US official said. *AFP*

Italian ex-cop arrested after hijacking plane

LYON, France—A mentally disturbed Italian former policeman was arrested on Wednesday after hijacking a plane flying to France from Italy with more than 60 people on board, officials said.

Stefano Savorani, a 29-year-old with a criminal record as a hijacker, approached the pilot with an electronic remote-control device which he said was connected to a bomb and demanded to speak to journalists, officials said.

The afternoon flight from the northern Italian city of Bologna to Paris was diverted to France's second largest city of Lyon, where Savorani was overwhelmed by police as he left the plane and taken into custody.

"He claimed to be a member of al-Qaida, but he did not have all his faculties," police spokesperson Gerard Laurent said.

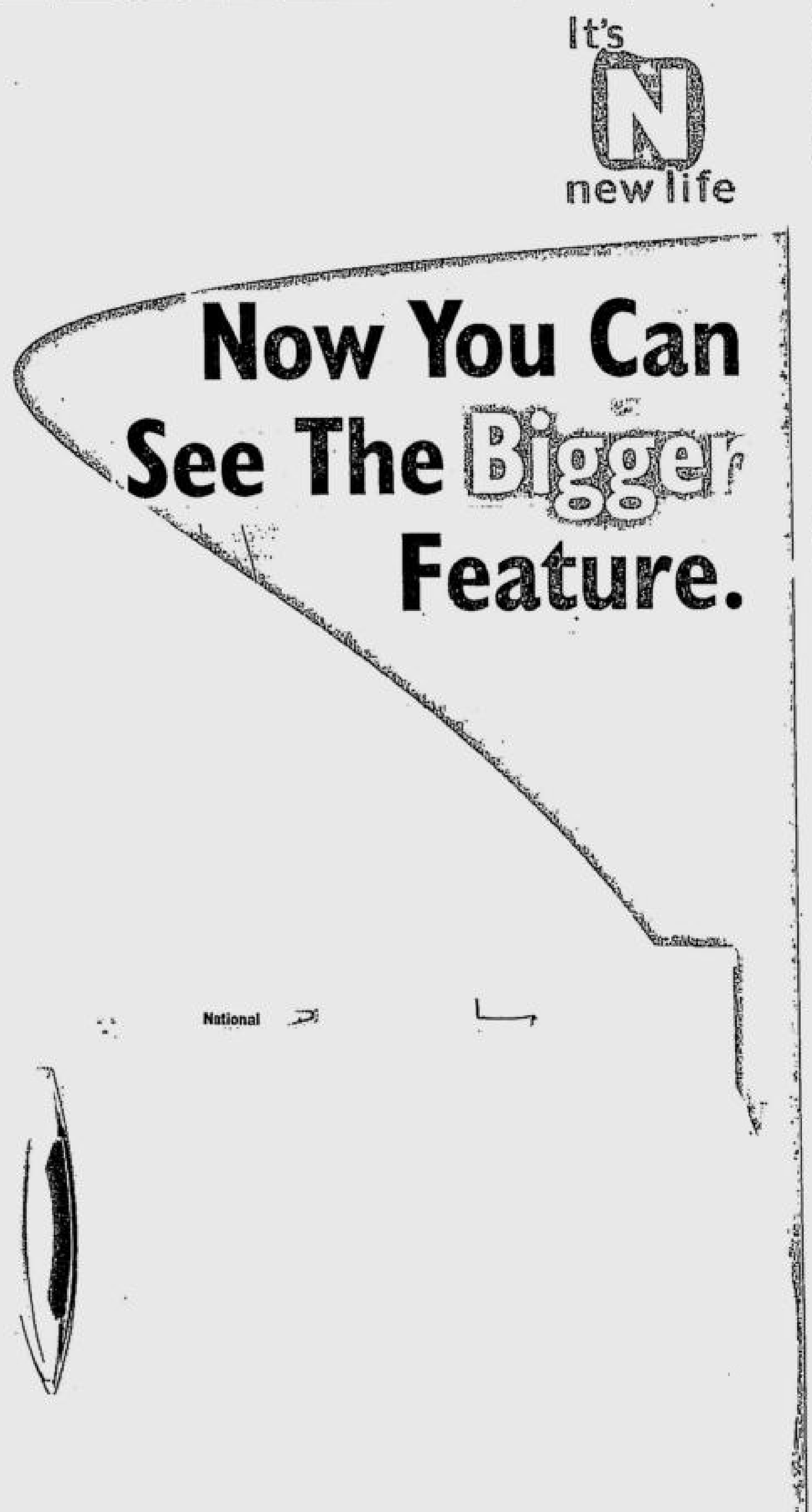
However two flight attendants reported Savorani told them "he was claiming responsibility on behalf of a movement opposed to Bin Laden and that he wanted to make known the movement," a senior police officer, Francis Ohling, quoted them as saying, referring to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

During a 1999 hijack bid on an Air France flight from Marseille to Paris, Savorani said he was acting on behalf of a politico-religious movement called Vitalunismo which was working for European unification.

The Alitalia aircraft was carrying 57 passengers and seven crew when it took off from Bologna at 2:10 p.m. Diverted over Switzerland, it landed at Lyon's Saint-Exupery airport at 3:20 p.m.

Italian officials said Savorani, from the northern Italian town of Imola, "suffered from psychiatric problems," and already had a record as a failed hijacker.

In his 1999 hijack attempt, he used an almost identical tactic, French police said. The previous year he briefly took hostage the conductor of a high-speed train to Bologna. *AFP*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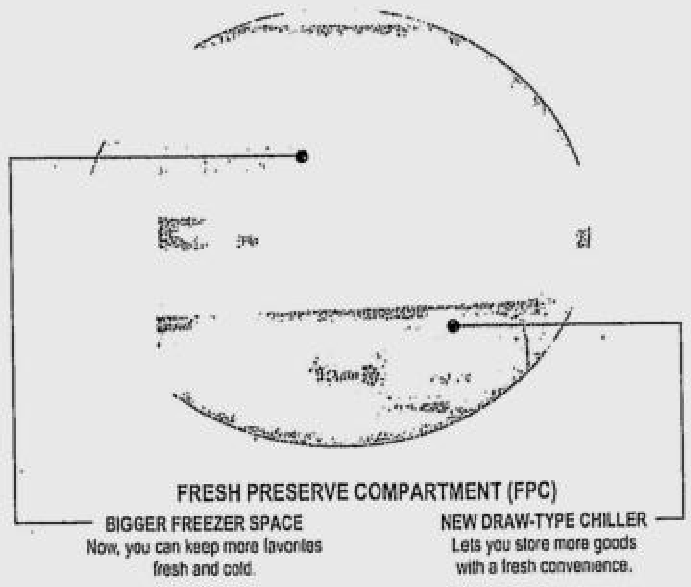
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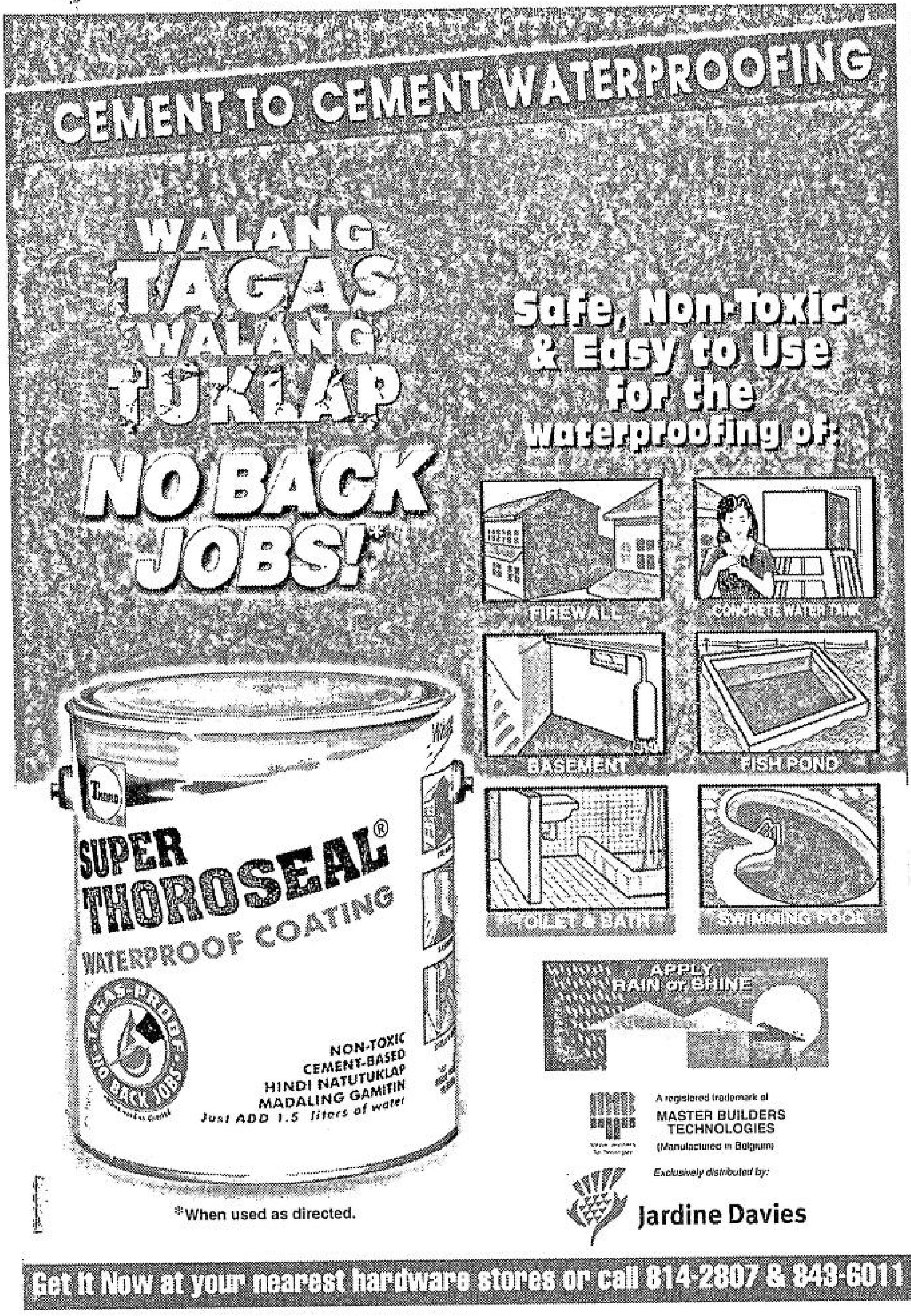

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Kissinger to lead probe of failure to prevent 9/11

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush appointed Henry Kissinger on Wednesday to lead an independent investigation of the government's failure to prevent the Sept. 11 attacks, instructing the former secretary of state to "follow all the facts wherever they lead."

KISSINGER

"We must uncover every detail and learn every lesson of Sept. 11," Bush said before signing legislation creating the 10-member commission, which he initially opposed, and naming one of the most controversial American statesmen of the last half-century as its chairman.

Kissinger promised a full investigation, including an examination of any ties between US ally Saudi Arabia and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, which the United States accuses of masterminding the attacks.

"We are not restricted by any foreign policy considerations . . . We are under no restrictions and we would accept no restrictions," Kissinger said, adding that Bush assured him that "he has every intention to carry out the recommendations of the commission."

Democrats, who appointed former Sen. George Mitchell as vice chair of the commission, said Bush could be asked to testify in person about events leading up to the attacks that killed more than 3,000 people. The White House rebuffed the suggestion. Kissinger skirted the question.

Mitchell, a Democrat known for high-profile efforts to broker peace in the Middle East and Northern Ireland, promised to "do all I can to ensure that the commission's inquiry is thorough, fair and non-partisan."

The president said Kissinger, 79, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and secretary of state under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, would bring "broad experience, clear thinking and careful judgment to this important task."

But critics blasted the choice, citing Kissinger's hotly contested record during the Vietnam War and a US-abetted coup in Chile. A new documentary called "The Trials of Henry Kissinger" alleged Kissinger is an international war criminal.

"Kissinger is not distinguished as an impartial judge of government misconduct, to put it mildly. To the contrary, he is an investigatee, not an investigator, and one who has stubbornly resisted the disclosure of official information to members of Congress, courts of law, private researchers, and others," said Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy expert at the Federation of American Scientists.

The Bush administration initially opposed the commission, arguing that a congressional investigation was better equipped to preserve national security secrets. But victims' families led a public campaign and pressured Bush to back down. *Reuters*

Osama boasted 'thousands' would die in US, ex-bodyguard tells court

HAMBURG—Osama bin Laden boasted there would be "thousands of dead" in the United States about six months before the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, one of his former bodyguards told a German court Wednesday.

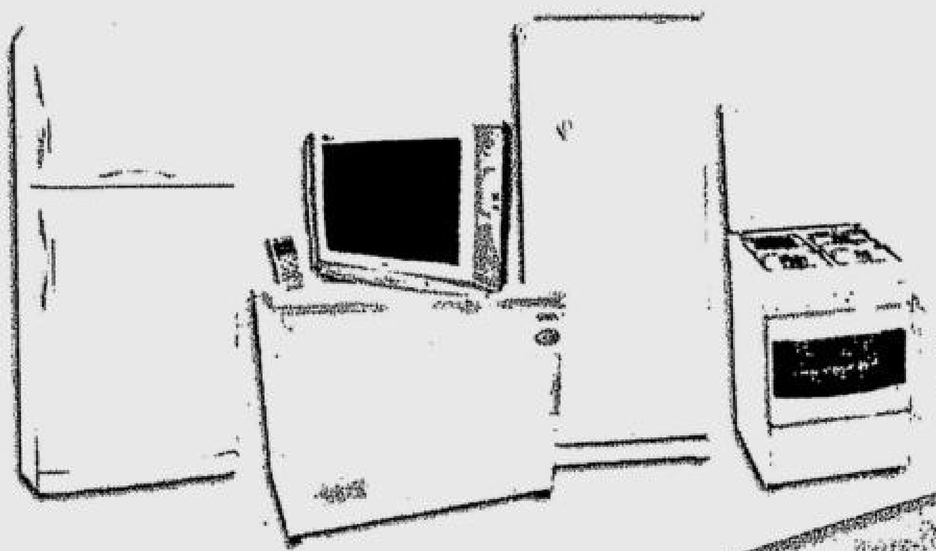
Speaking at the trial of a Moroccan man accused of playing a role in the attacks, Shadi Abdellah said that Bin Laden told members at a training camp in Afghanistan that "we want to hit America in the spinal column." Abdellah said that months earlier the accused, Mounir El Motassadeq, had also heard Bin Laden give another virulent anti-American speech.

In previous testimony before the court in the northern German city of Hamburg, Motassadeq said he had attended one of the network's training camps in Afghanistan in 2000, but never when Bin Laden was there.

Motassadeq, a 28-year-old Moroccan, is the first man worldwide to stand trial over the attacks on Sept. 11 last year.

He is charged with membership in a terrorist organization and being an accessory in the deaths of more than 3,000 people. He could face 15 years in prison if found guilty.

Prosecutors claim he was a key figure who moved money for the so-called Hamburg cell of al-Qaida, the organization behind the plot to hijack passenger jets and fly them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. *AFP*



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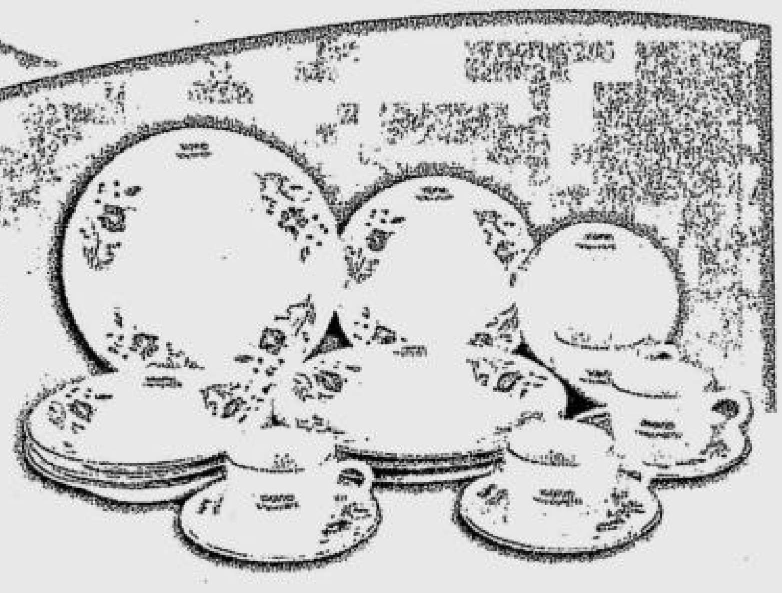

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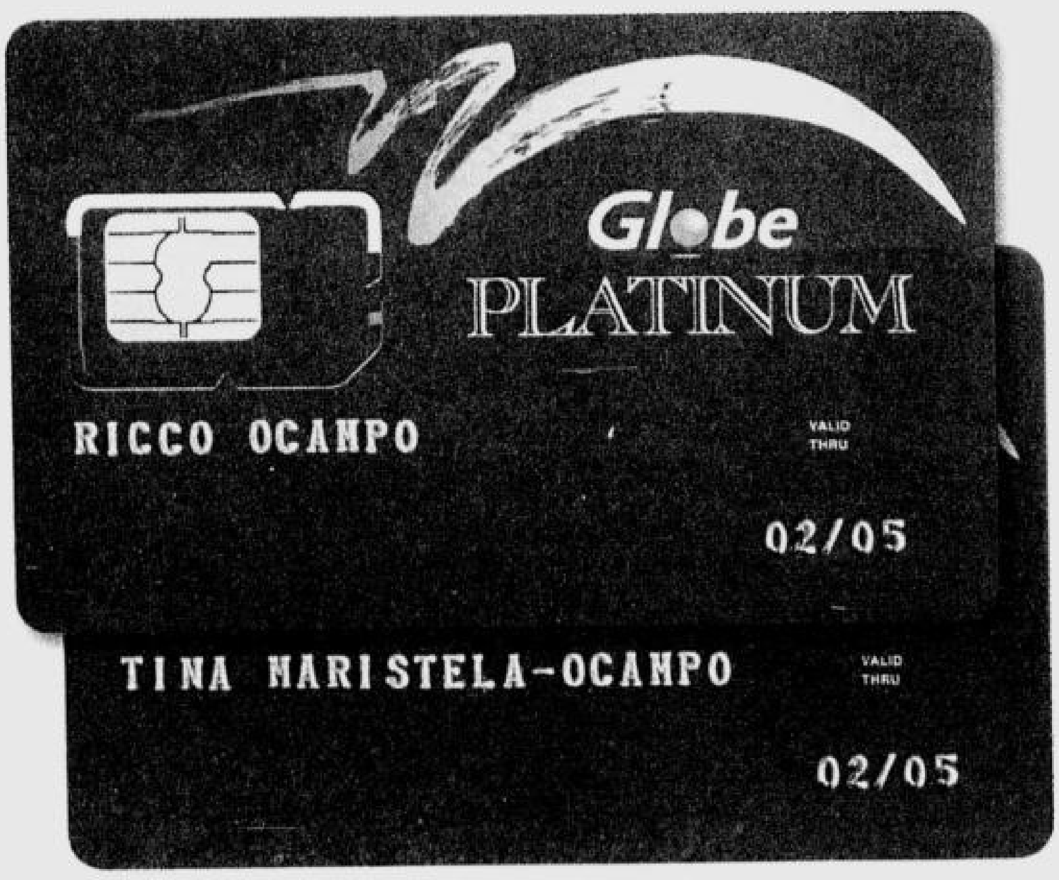

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Bali bombers map out sinister trail

By Lawrence Bartlett

KUALA LUMPUR—Evidence from two self-confessed bombers has mapped out a sinister trail from the peace of a Malaysian village and the piety of a rural school to the carnage of the Bali massacre.

Each new link that falls into place in the investigation of the blast which killed more than 190 people leads back to the village, the school and relationships developed by Indonesians living in exile in Malaysia.

At least four of the main characters so far identified as central to the probe share the Malaysian connection, a bitter pill for the government of this moderate Islamic country.

It was in Malaysia that the two who have admitted involvement in the Bali attack, Amrozi and Imam Samudra, came in contact with people and projects linked to the Jemaah Islamiah (JI) terrorist organization.

JI was allegedly being nurtured by two of their countrymen, Muslim clerics Riduan Isamuddin, alias Hambali, and Abu Bakar Bashir, who had fled the Indonesia of former dictator Suharto, seen by fundamentalists as an oppressor of Islam.

Hambali arrived in Malaysia in 1985, left to fight in the anti-Soviet campaign in Afghanistan from 1987 until 1991, and returned to settle in the quiet village of Sungai Manggis about an hour's drive from the capital Kuala Lumpur.

There he and fellow villager Bashir built the JI organization into a terrorist network inspired by what Hambali had learnt from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida in Afghanistan, says security analyst Rohan Gunaratna, author of "Inside al-Qaida."

Imam Samudra, described as a leading figure in the Bali bombing, told Indonesian police this week he was a neighbor of Hambali's in Malaysia.

Amrozi, a self-confessed lower-level operative, attended a religious school run by Bashir, Luqmanul Hakiem, near Ulu Tiram in southern Malaysia.

The isolated school, set among palm oil plantations, was closed down by Malaysia in January, but by then the key Indonesian suspects had returned home after the fall of Suharto in 1998.

Bashir, Samudra and Amrozi are now all in detention, with Bashir held on allegations of involvement in a series of bombings of Indonesian churches on Christmas Eve 2000. Hambali is at large.

Some analysts have suggested that suppression under Suharto gave rise to the militancy which grew among Indonesian exiles in the Malaysian village and school and exploded violently in Bali.

But Gunaratna, dismisses this. "It is a fact that Suharto was hard and these people left Indonesia and developed the organization outside.

"But it was not a response to his oppression. I believe in any case these people would have developed this kind of structure because al-Qaida is a very violent organization and infected groups like JI.

"Malaysia's role was a passive one, not active. It was Indonesians who developed JI in Malaysia. All key leaders of JI are Indonesians."

That is of little comfort in a country which winces every time Malaysia is mentioned in connection with the Bali killers. *AFP*

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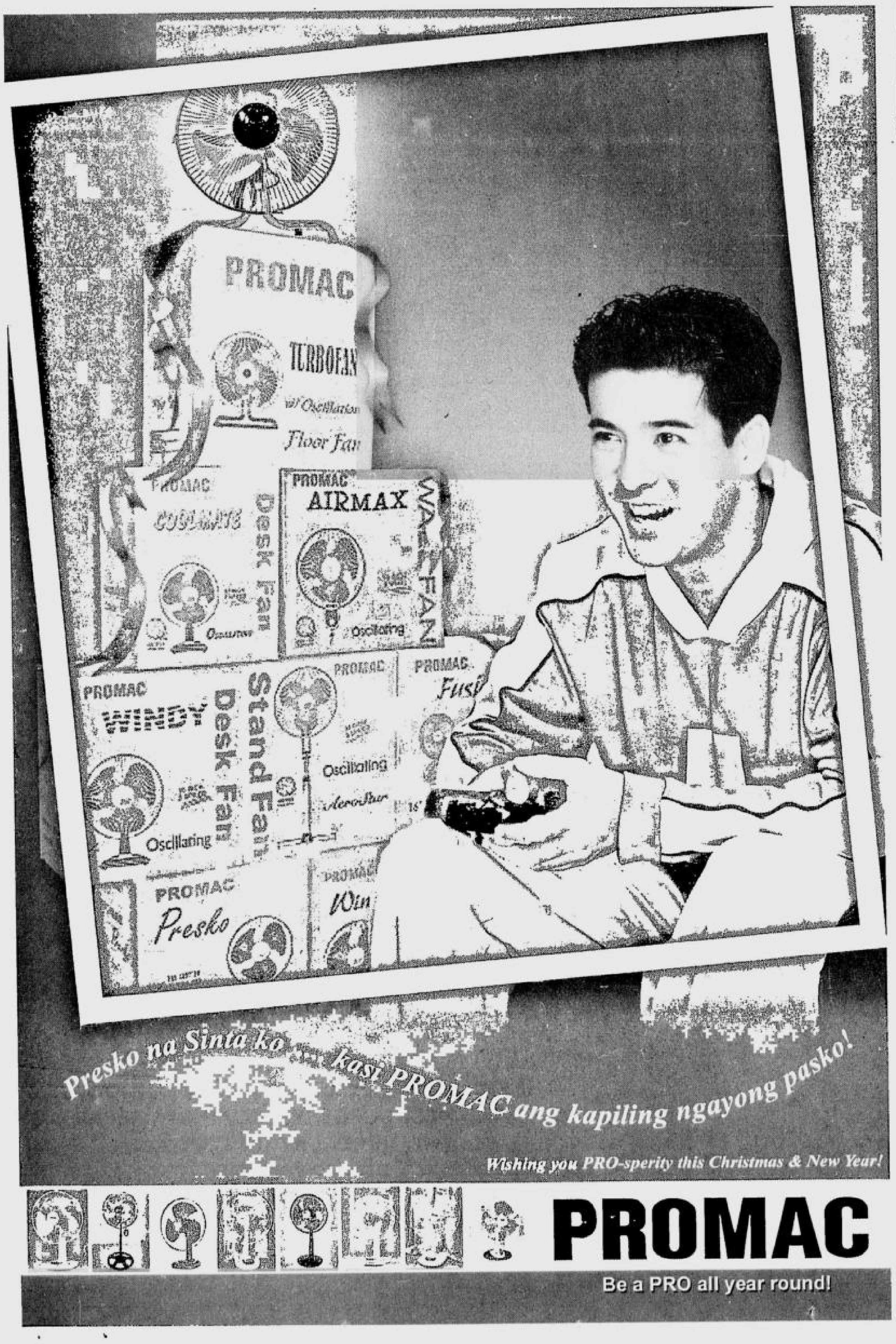

Femina Forum

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Why women of reproductive age need iron supplements regularly

Iron is a mineral that the body needs to produce red blood cells. When the body does not get enough iron, this could easily lead to Iron Deficiency Anemia or IDA, one of the world's main nutritional and reproductive health problems, affecting 3.5 billion women all over the world. In general, anemia causes fatigue, paleness of the skin, weakness, shortness of breath with only mild exertion, and dizziness. That's why a continuous intake of iron supplements is vital. Which leads us to this question: which is better -- weekly iron tablets like Femina or the prevailing practice of daily iron supplements?

EFFICACY

The efficacy of weekly iron supplementation has been validated by the World Health Organization (WHO). Field and clinical studies comparing weekly with daily iron intakes have demonstrated the efficacy of weekly iron supplementation in improving iron nutrition. The rationale for using weekly iron doses is that the cumulative daily dose rapidly reduces the intestinal absorption of subsequent doses as well as that of dietary iron. The weekly dose schedule is not only a convenient unit of time, but it also provides enough time for our intestinal mucosal cells to absorb the previous dose before we take in the next one. This means that only through weekly supplementation can women of reproductive age store iron and prevent IDA before, during, and after pregnancy. As a result of the said study, the WHO supported preventive weekly supplementation to women even before they conceive.

LESS SIDE EFFECTS

The same studies have shown that the incidence of side effects is less among those taking iron supplements once weekly. In fact, many subjects who were taking iron tablets daily exhibited numerous side effects such as stomach irritation, nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, etc. Compliance among subjects on a weekly regimen of iron supplementation fared better.

EASY ON THE POCKET

Obviously, the total cost of supplementation is more affordable on a weekly basis compared to a daily (seven times a week) regimen.

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46th PSO-HNS Annual Convention

Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
November 30 to December 3, 2002

"Advancing Frontiers in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery For a Healthier Philippines"

MESSAGES

It is my distinct pleasure to greet the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery on the occasion of its 46th PSO-HNS Annual Convention with the theme, "Advancing Frontiers in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery."

Your unwavering commitment to uplift the standard of healthcare, especially in the field of surgery, is truly commendable. Your desire to keep abreast with the latest trends and issues in your filed will greatly complement our government's efforts to address the health needs of our poor and impoverished countrymen.

Join me in strengthening the bedrock of a strong Republic by ensuring that all Filipinos will live healthy and productive lives. Let us triumph over the ills of disease and poverty.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My Dear Colleagues:

The officers of the PSOHNS together with the Organizing Committee are proud to invite all of you to our Annual Convention for the year 2002.

The long year preparation for this affair had been very extensive. The theme, "Advancing Frontiers in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery For a Healthier Philippines" is appropriate for our quest for the delivery of quality healthcare to our countrymen.

We have invited foreign speakers and guests to share with us new ideas and experiences in the field of ORL-HNS. Scientific sessions and social events have been scheduled to promote intellectual interaction and fellowship.

We hope that you will enjoy this momentous event.

Mabuhay!

EDGARDO C. RODRIGUEZ, JR., MD, FPSOHNS
President
PSO-HNS

Mabuhay!

Welcome to our 46th Annual Convention!

This year's meeting will be different and quite interesting — a product of the synergistic mix of creative ideas from our "group of 8" ENT-accredited training institutions of host Metro Manila in cooperation with our energetic vice-chair Dr. Benito Uy and dynamic scientific chair Dr. Charlotte Chiong. Guided by our promise, we intend to achieve the 3C's — provide Continuing medical education, foster Camaraderie, and renew our Commitment to the PSO-HNS and its mission.

The scientific program has been carefully crafted to provide updates in both basic research and the latest clinical experiences across the spectrum of general ENT to specific subspecialties. Recent national issues that will be affecting our practice have been included. The combined faculty of foreign and local speakers have been assigned to handle their topics of interest using various teaching-learning strategies — plenary sessions, round table discussions, scientific symposia, interactive modules, video presentations and instructional courses. Our academic competitive edge will be tested at the annual Mediquiz and Residents' Research Forum.

Of course, we will make time for solemnity as we welcome our youngest family members, the new diplomates and fellows, in the Induction Ceremonies during the Opening Cocktails. This year is also an election year and the future directions of our society will be set by the elective mandate of our new leaders. Further serious matters we must discuss, as we meet only once a year in full membership, at the Business Meeting. There is an urgent need to deliberate over serious concerns which will affect our future practice.

However, it will not be just all work as we promise to treat you to a different kind of sports competition — the Billiard Olympics. Unwinding will definitely be achieved during Fellowship Night planned to be an evening of fun, games, singing and dancing. Our 5-day reunion will be capped by the much-awaited "ENT Goes Broadway" which will showcase the talents of our otolaryngologists in our revival of the interhospital contest during the Convention Banquet.

And so, this time, in a different place with a different theme, "Advancing Frontiers in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery for a Healthier Philippines", at a different pace, we enjoin you all to be a part of the once a year celebration of the best of the PSO-HNS.

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Vice-Chair - Felix P. Nolasco, MD

WAYS & MEANS
Chair - Francisco A. Victoria, MD
Vice-Chair - Ma. Fita P. Guzman, MD

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Chair - Virgilio R. de Gracia, MD
Vice-Chair - Alejandro P. Opulencia, MD

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1 (November 30-Saturday)

7:00-8:00 AM. REGISTRATION
8:00-9:00 Opening Ceremonies Keynote Speaker: Honorable Robert Barbers (Senate of the Philippines)
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session I
"Contemporary Management of Oral Cavity CA" (*Bruce H. Haughey, MBChB, MS, FRACS, FACS (USA)*
"Outcomes of Endoscopic Surgery of the Larynx" (*Bruce H. Haughey, MBChB, MS, FRACS, FACS) (USA)*
"Reconstructive Options in Head and Neck Cancer Surgery" (*Bruce H. Haughey, MBChB, MS, FRACS, FACS (USA)*
10:30-11:00 AM Snacks
11:00-12:00 nn ENT Concerns I Management of the Terminally Ill
"Caring for the Terminally Ill in the Community – An 8 Year Experience of the Madre de Amor Foundation" (*Rhodora A. del Rosario-Ocampo, MD (Phils.)*
"Patient's Perspective" (*Ms. Kara Magsanoc Alikpala (Phils.)*
"Psychologist's View" (*Isabel Melgar, MD (Phils.)* RTD I Pain Management
"Non-Traditional Medicine" (*Cornelio A. dela Paz, MD (Phils.)*
"Control of Oncologic Pain in ORL and Head and Neck Cancer"(*Antonio B. Yap, MD (Phils.)*
"Psychosocial Aspects of Pain Management" (*Antonio C. Sison, MD, FPPA (Phils.)*
Interactive Session Management of Solitary Thyroid Nodules
12:30-2:00 Lunch Symposium I Clindamycin: Optimizing Use in Upper Respiratory Tract Infection *Itzhak Brook, MD, MSc (USA)*
2:00-3:00 Scientific Symposium I
"Ameloblastoma: The Case for Conservatism" (*Roberto M. Pangan, MD, PhD (Phils.)*
"Why Radical Resection is Important for Ameloblastoma" (*Arturo M. dela Peña, MD (Phils.)*
Scientific Symposium II Oromandibular Reconstruction
"10 Years of Vascularized Free Flaps for Functional Oromandibular Reconstruction" (*Joselito F. David, MD (Phils.)*
"Pedicled Regional Osteomycutaneous Flaps for Oromandibular Reconstruction" (*Armando M. Chiong Jr., MD (Phils.)*
PM Snacks
3:30-4:15 How I Do It Session I
"Pharyngolaryngo-Esophagectomy" (Bruce H. Haughey, MBChB, MS, FRACS, FACS (USA)
"Selective Neck Dissection" (*Alfredo Q.Y. Pontejos, Jr., MD (Phils.)*
4:15-5:30 Presentation of Candidates for Election/Forum for PSO-PCS ISSUE
6:30 pm Opening Cocktails/Induction Ceremonies (Fellows & Diplomates)

DAY 2 (December 1-Sunday)

7:00-8:00 am MASS
8:00-9:00 Instructional Courses
"CT Anatomy of Temporal Bone" (*Nathaniel W. Yang, MD (Phils.)*
"Endoscopic Approach to the Sphenoid Sinus" (*Josefino G. Hernandez, MD (Phils.)*
"Foreign Body Aspiration in Children" (*Antonio C. Chua, MD (Phils.)*
Laser Surgery Course by the ORL-HNS Laser Surgery Group
" Diode Laser Surgery of the Turbinate" (*Michael Alexius A. Sarte, MD (Phils.)*
" Carbon Dioxide Laser of the Turbinate" (*Cesar V. Villafuerte Jr., MD, MHA (Phils.)*
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session II
"Advances in Cochlear Implantation" (*Joachim Mueller, MD (Germany)*
"Vestibular Function Evaluation: What Lies Ahead" (*Prof. Herman Kingma, PhD (The Netherlands)*
"Auditory Brainstem Implants" (*Joachim Mueller, MD (Germany)*
10:30-11:00 BREAK
11:00-12:00 pm ENT Concerns II
"Medicolegal Aspects and Malpractice Issues Relevant to ORL-HNS" *Speaker: Bu Castro, MD (Phils.)*
RTD II Otoacoustic and ABR for Hearing Screening: The Philippine Experience"
"AABR: A Screening Tool for Hearing Loss" (*Ma. Rina T. Reyes-Quintos, MD (Phils.)*
"Otoacoustic Tool for Hearing Loss" (*Norberto V. Martinez, MD (Phils.)*
Interactive Session Surgical Interventions for CSOM
"Should all Cholesteatoma be operated?"
12:30-2:00 Lunch Symposium II
2:00-3:00 Scientific Symposium III
"Evaluation and Management of CPA Tumors" *Charlotte M. Chiong, MD (Phils.)*
"Translabyrinthine Resection of Acoustic Neuromas: Neurosurgical Perspective" *Gerardo D. Legaspi, MD (Phils.)*
"Neurophysiologists' Perspective: Value of Intraoperative Facial Nerve Monitoring" *Jose Paciano Reyes, MD (Phils.)* *Sharon D. Ignacio, MD (Phils.)*
Scientific Symposium IV
«Amplification Option» *Dennis Au, MASc, PhD (Hongkong)*
"Digital vs. Analog Hearing Aid"
"Identification, Intervention and Management of Auditory Neuropathy: A Case Study in the Philippines" *Liza Abaño, MD, MclAud (PHILS.)*
3:15-4:45 Satellite Symposium
"Insights on the Pathophysiology and Diagnosis of Vertigo from the Laboratory" (*Prof. Herman Kingma, PhD (The Netherlands)*
PM Snacks
4:45-5:45 How I Do It Session II
"Comparative Effectiveness of Various Antibiotics for Suppurative Otitis Media" (*Generoso T. Abes, MD, MPH (Phils.)*
"Bilateral Implantation" (*Ryan Yung-Song Lin, MD*
5:45-6:45 Free papers
6:30 pm Fellows Cocktails/PSOHNS Business Meeting/Proclamation of Election Winners

DAY 3 (December 2-Monday)

7:00-8:00 am Breakfast Symposium
8:00-9:00 Instructional Courses
"Hearing Aid Prescription and Fitting" (*Dennis Au, AuD (Hongkong)*
"Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Tricks of the Trade" (*Gil M. Vicente, MD (Phils.)*
"Medialization Thyroplasty" (*William L. Lim, MD (Phils.)*
"The Art of Plating for Maxillofacial Fracture" (*Felix P. Nolasco, MD (Phils.)*
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session III
"Current Management of ENT Infections" (*Itzhak Brook, MD, MSc (USA)*
"Philippine Update on Resistance Patterns and Antibiotic Use for ORL Infections" *Celia C. Carlos, MD, FPPS, FPIDSP, FPSMID (Phils.)*
"Tuberculosis 2002 Update" (*Jaime Montoya, MD, MSc, FPCP, FPSMID (Phils.)*
10:30-11:00 Break
11:00-12:00 pm ENT Concerns III Medical Informatics in Otolaryngology
Maximizing Your Handheld Computers (*Speaker: Inocencio Daniel C. Maramba, MD, MSC (Phils.)*
Herman D. Tolentino, MD (Phils.) RTD III
"FESS: 20 Years Later" (*Don S. Burgos, MD, FACS (USA)*
"The Future of Endoscopic Sinus Surgery for Pediatric Rhinosinusitis"
Interactive Session "Practical Approach to Hoarseness"
12:30-2:00 Lunch Symposium III
2:00-3:00 Mediquiz Contest
PM Snacks
3:00-5:00 Residents Research Contest
6:30 pm Fellowship Night

DAY 4 (December 3-Tuesday)

8:00-9:00 Instructional Courses
"Basic Concepts on Tests of Cochleo-Vestibular Function: Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Electronystagmography (ENG) Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potentials (VEMP) (*Elmer M. dela Cruz, MD, MclAud(Phils.) (Jose Carlos Z. Jugo, MD(Phils.)*
"Endoscopic Septoplasty" *Benjamin S.A. Campomanes, Jr., MD (Phils.)*
"Benign Lesions of the Vocal Fold" (*Ma. Clarissa S. Fortuna, MD (Phils.)*
EMG "Laryngeal EMG" (*Filipina Encarnacion T. Cevallos, MD, MPH (Phils.)*
"EMG-Guided Botox Injection for Spasmodic Dysphonia" (*Rebecca G. Rosales-Feliciano, MD (Phils.)*
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session IV
"Genetics in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery" (*Eva Maria C. Cutiongco, MD (Phils.)*
"PET Scan in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery" (*Gerard L. Goco, MD (SLMC, Phils.)*
"Approaches to Management of the Allergic Child" (*Prof. Hugo P.S. Van Bever (Singapore)*
10:30-11:00 Break
11:00-12:00 pm Video Session I
"Voice Reconstruction in Laryngectomy" (*Celso V. Ureta, MD (Phils.)*
"Surgical Management of Congenital Aural Atresia" (*Dominador M. Almeda Jr., MD (Phils.)*
"Computer-Assisted Endoscopic Sinus Surgery" (*Don S. Burgos, MD, FACS (Florida, USA)*
RTD IV Deafness and Cochlear Implants
"Audiological Evaluation and Management" *Dennis Au, AuD (Hongkong)*
"Auditory Verbal Intervention" *Ms. Lea Labrador (Phils.)*
" Speech and Comprehension Achievement of Filipino Children with Cochlear Implants" *Maribel B. Muller, MA (Phils.)*
"Parent's Perspective" *Mr. Andy Locsin (Phils.)*
"Patient's Perspective" *Mr. Daniel Corpuz (Phils.)*
Interactive Session
"Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Trauma"
12:30-2:00 Lunch Symposium IV Levocetirizine (*Prof. Hugo P.S. Van Bever (Singapore)*
2:00-3:00 Scientific Symposium V
"Sleep Medicine" (*Ruth M. Divinagracia, MD (Phils.)*
"ENT Perspective in OSA" (*Michael Alexius A. Sarte, MD (Phils.)*
"Neurologist's Perspective" (*Ma. Felicidad A. Soto, MD (Phils.)*
Scientific Symposium VI Primary Repair: Cleft Lip and Palate
" Secondary Repair of Cleft Lip and Palate" (*Eutrapio S. Guevara Jr., MD (Phils.)*
"Secondary Bone Graft Procedure and Implants prior to Orthodontic Management for Cleft Palate Patient" (*Eliezer B. Blanes, DMD (Phils.)*
"Evaluation and Management of Speech in Cleft Patients" *Prof. Fernando Alejandro C. Ligot, MHPEd, SP (Phils.)*
PM Snacks
3:00-5:00 Satellite Symposium
"Extraesophageal Complications (i.e. Laryngopharyngeal Reflux) of Gastric Acid Reflux" (*Eutrapio S. Guevara Jr. MD (Phils.)*
"Multidisciplinary Aspect of Chronic Cough: Cough Referral Center" (*Zenaides T. Wi, MD (Phils.) (Jennifer Ann T. Wi, MD (Phils.)*
5:00-5:30 Closing Ceremonies of Scientific Meeting
6:30 pm Convention Banquet

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5 women impregnated with cloned embryos; first baby due December

WASHINGTON—The first of five women impregnated with cloned embryos is due to give birth to a baby girl by the end of the year, a member of the controversial Raelian movement said Wednesday.

"We have five pregnancies underway of which one is almost due. We will have the first (baby) soon," French scientist Brigitte Boisselier, managing director of the group's Las Vegas, Nevada-based Clonaid project, said.

Bosselier declined to give an exact date of birth, but said the cloned baby was due sometime before the end of the year.

Two US couples, two Asian couples and one European couple are involved in the project.

One of the American couples is expecting the first birth, a baby girl, she said.

The Raelians, who claim 55,000 followers worldwide, believe that life on Earth was established by extra-terrestrials who arrived in flying saucers 25,000 years ago, and that humans themselves were created by cloning.

The movement's founder, Rael—the former French journalist Claude Vorilhon—lives in Quebec. He describes himself as a prophet and claims that cloning will enable humanity to attain eternal life.

In Rome on Tuesday, Italian gynecologist Severino Antinori said the world's first cloned human being, a boy, would be born in January.

Antinori said the mother, in the 33rd week of pregnancy, and the fetus were doing well.

Cloning provides a genetic duplicate of another creature.

The predominant method around the world entails removing the nucleus, or core, from an egg and replacing it with DNA from a donor. This DNA "reprograms" the egg, transferring into it the entire genetic code of the donor.

The big problem, however, is to ensure that all the genes in this transferred code work properly, performing the dazzlingly complex business which is the making of tissue and the repairing of it.

Wide-ranging tests in lab animals, and the experience of cloned farm animals including Dolly the Sheep, have found that—even though all the genes are there—many of them do not appear to switch on and off as they should.

Malfunctioning genes can cause an embryo to become malformed, prompting the body to expel it in a miscarriage.

Boisselier said that her organization had brought together cells to obtain more than 300 human embryos ahead of implantation.

They had also performed some 3,500 experiments on the ova of cows and pigs before starting to experiment on human eggs.

Many biotechnologists are repelled by the ethical dilemma posed by human cloning as well as the risk to the first cloned babies, and many governments have raced to pass laws that ban reproductive cloning. *AFP*

THOROUGHBREDS REUTERS

A breaker leads a herd of Spanish thoroughbreds at the International Horse Opening Show in Seville on Nov. 27. The show, which runs until Dec. 1, is dedicated exclusively to Spanish thoroughbreds.

Ivory Coast seen lurching back to war

ABIDJAN—Hopes of a peaceful end to Ivory Coast's war were thrown into doubt on Thursday after rebels said that many people had been killed in helicopter gunship raids behind their lines.

French troops said they would investigate the reports of Wednesday's air attacks, which if confirmed, would be the worst ceasefire violation since they started policing a truce six weeks ago in the world's top cocoa producer.

A commander of the Patriotic Movement of Ivory Coast rebels said he thought 40 people had been killed in attacks on Wednesday on Vavoua, Pelezi and Diafla, over 450 km northwest of the main city of Abidjan.

"There were many dead and injured among the civilians," Sergeant Zacharias Kone said by satellite telephone from Vavoua. "I've got four dead bodies here with me.

There was no independent report of any casualties. *Reuters*

North, South Korea resume mine-clearing work

SEOUL—South and North Korean troops on Thursday resumed mine-clearing operations to prepare corridors for rail and road links through their heavily fortified border after a three-week stoppage, officials said here.

The South's defense ministry said South Korean military engineers backed by demining equipment and combat soldiers began the work from 9:00 a.m.

"North Korean military troops were seen clearing bushes from the border during morning hours as well," Yoon Won-Jae, a ministry spokesperson, said.

He expected the demining work to finish by Dec. 10.

The two Koreas have agreed to reconstruct two sets of railways and roads across the mine-strewn demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the Korean peninsula for half a century.

Under an agreement reached in August, the two sides said they would open one of the roads by the end of this month and one of the railway lines in December.

But the North stopped the demining work three weeks ago to demand that the US-led United Nations Command (UNC) give up its control of the transportation corridors.

The UNC, which has supervised the DMZ's southern part since the 1950-1953 Korean War, rejected the North's demand and in an abrupt turnabout, North Korea agreed Wednesday to resume work on the stalled road and rail links.

However, it was expected that the delay would push back the timetable for completion of one road link, originally due this month. *AFP*

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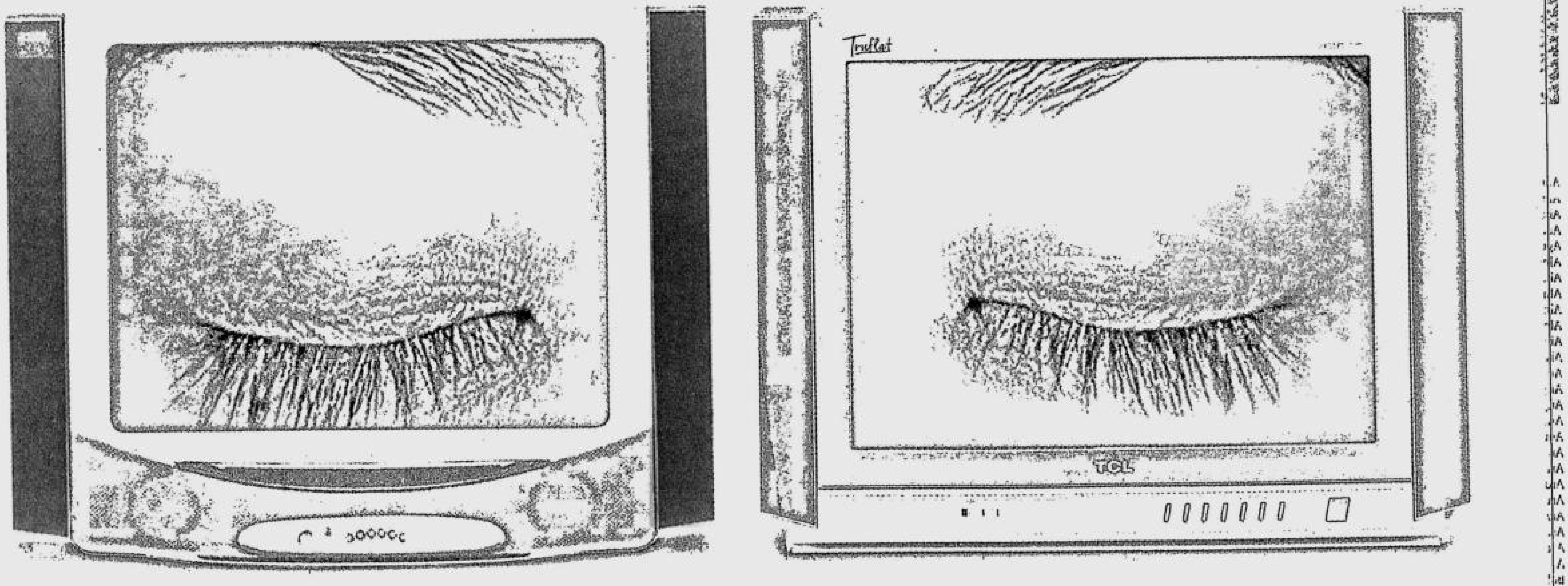
It's easy to tell a wannabe from a real stereo TV.



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Some TV makers are trying to trick you into buying mono TVs by making them look like **stereo** with twin speakers. To make these wannabes seem more attractive, sometimes they offer empty discounts or giveaways which are all mere sugarcoating. Worse, they could be trying to sell you outdated, phased out models. Good thing there's TCL, the only brand that produces nothing but stereo TVs. Equipped with the latest state-of-the-art features like a built-in equalizer and are all VCD and DVD-ready. Using our unique "hybrid technology", we're able to apply Germany's cutting-edge stereo technology in all our products in the most cost-effective way possible. So it comes at a sound price, too. Check out TCL at your favorite appliance store now. It's about time you let a real stereo TV stimulate all your senses. That includes your common sense.

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GMA deactivates Mindanao body amid reports of scam

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal yesterday ordered the immediate deactivation of the controversial Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA).

The President also ordered the filing of appropriate charges against officials of the administration who are found liable for any wrongdoing.

In deactivating SPDA, all positions in the board of directors, advisers and the administrator have been declared vacant.

The President also issued Executive Order 149, creating a task force to be headed by Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, to manage the deactivation process. With Dureza are representatives from the Department of Budget and Management, National Economic and Development Authority and the Presidential Adviser on the Peace process.

The executive order deactivating SPDA, signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, cited "overlapping" of functions as one of the reasons for the move.

"Some of the functions of SPDA are being performed by other existing government agencies and there is a need to constantly monitor the overlapping functions among government agencies to avoid duplicity of work and in order to streamline the functions of the bureaucracy, the EO said.

The President also ordered Dureza to file criminal and administrative charges against "questionable" officials.

While saying that the order will be implemented immediately, Dureza told the INQUIRER that they will prioritize the payment of delayed salaries of "suffering employees" of the SPDA.

Dureza's task also includes administering of changes in the agency first by coming up with his recommendation of people to replace the vacant positions.

SPDA hogged the headlines here last year after former administrator Zamzamin Ampatuan said the agency became a milking cow of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Trek to Mt. Pinatubo to promote volcano as major RP tourist spot

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—More than 100 trekkers, including five foreigners, are climbing Mt. Pinatubo on Saturday to welcome the start of the Department of Tourism's "Visit the Philippines 2003."

The trek, held annually since 1998, also seeks to boost the tourism potential of the 1,400-foot volcano to help indigenous Aeta tribe and upland farmers living there rebuild their lives, said Ronaldo Tiotuico, DOT director in Central Luzon.

Tiotuico said the volcano's violent eruption in June 1991 left canyons of lahar not found elsewhere in the world. The blast also left a 3-km wide sunken crater that has been filled with rainwater in the last 11 years.

In June, on the 11th anniversary of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption, President Macapagal-Arroyo climbed the volcano to promote it as a tourist destination.

She had wanted the treks, which were originally started by the Aetas in 1994, to benefit the villagers.

The 1991 blast, said to be the world's second biggest eruption in the 20th century, displaced 1.3 million Central Luzon residents. More than 50,000 of them were Aetas living on the flanks of the volcano, which they consider an ancestral domain.

For the local launch of the "Visit the Philippines 2003" promotional campaign, the trekkers will access Mt. Pinatubo through the Sta. Juliana route in Capas, Tarlac.

More than 100 Aetas now work as mountain guides and porters. They use the income to resume farming activities.

Tiotuico said the P10-million DOT road project in Sta. Juliana is 50 percent complete.

Proceeds from the Nov. 30 event, drawn from a registration fee of P1,000 for each climber, will be donated to the Sta. Juliana Tourism Council's conservation projects.

From there, the ascent to the summit is a six-hour walk amid slowly rejuvenating forests, rivers and streams and a still largely gray landscape of sand, ash, mud, pumice stones and boulders.

The trek, Tiotuico said, also tries to lift the slack in the local tourism business. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Foundation exec facing rape charge feared gone

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

DAUIS, Bohol—The Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) has issued a hold-departure order against a former officer of a foundation for deaf mute who is accused of raping one of his ward.

But the accused, Teodoro Cagasan, former assistant director at the International Deaf Education Association (IDEA) Philippines, was believed to have fled to the United States.

Judge Leo Moises Lison of the 14th MCTC for Dauis-Panglao, ordered the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) to hold Cagasan's departure and arrest him "so that he may be made to answer the charges against him."

The BID communicated with the judge to request him to provide information "and to obviate so many complaints of passengers with similar names."

Cagasan, a native of Duero town, is married to an American national.

Lison earlier issued a warrant for Cagasan's arrest after the preliminary investigation by the court found that "the crime charged may have been committed."

Cagasan was accused by a 17-year-old deaf mute of raping her in his residence in Barangay Totolan, Dauis on the third week of May.

The victim is a sophomore high school student at the SPED Special School in Tagbilaran. She was one of Cagasan's wards at the IDEA. She has since been under the custody of her family.

During preliminary investigation, the victim said she went to Cagasan's house on his orders at about 5 p.m. in May.

Before she could start cleaning, Cagasan dragged her to the bedroom, forced her to lie down and raped her.

In a press statement, the IDEA claimed Cagasan applied for leave to visit his wife in the US before the alleged rape was reported.

The same statement said that after learning of the charges, Cagasan was fired by the foundation.

Aside from the rape case lodged before the MCTC in Dauis, the Office of the City Prosecutor also approved the filing of sexual molestation charges against Cagasan for incidents that took place at the Dao Diamond Resort in Tagbilaran City.

The victim had also alleged that Cagasan continued to sexually molest her usually when she was cleaning or replacing the bedding in the guest rooms at the Dao Diamond Hotel in Dao, Tagbilaran City.

The victim said the sexual molestation took place almost everyday after May 17 until June 13, the day before Cagasan fled Bohol.

P3.8M worth of smuggled rice seized in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Central Mindanao seized here on Wednesday some 3,800 bags of imported rice worth P3.8 million.

The cargo, loaded in five 20-foot container vans owned by WG&A, was being ferried by the First Cargo Logistics to the Makar wharf here when CIDG elements intercepted it along the national highway in Barangay Apopong. Supt. Jose Pante, CIDG 12 chief, told reporters here that a tip off about trailer trucks from Cotabato City carrying imported rice prompted the seizure.

Pante said he immediately deployed his men and checked on incoming trucks.

Early dawn on Wednesday, he said, they flagged down the five trucks carrying the container vans.

When CIDG elements asked the drivers to show documents, they handed a copy of a cargo manifest showing that they were hauling cornstarch.

But Pante said they doubted the documents and insisted on opening the container vans.

The container vans did not contain cornstarch but sacks of imported rice from Malaysia.

The CIDG then impounded the cargo, which turned out to be owned by the Cotabato City-based Kutang Bato Conventional Trading Multi-Purpose Cooperative (KBCTMC) headed by Carlos Badoy, a brother of former Cotabato City Mayor Ludovico Badoy.

In an interview with reporters here, Badoy admitted that the rice came from Labuan, Malaysia and was shipped to the country via the Polloc Port in Maguindanao about two weeks ago.

But he denied that the cargo was smuggled, saying the cooperative paid about P1 million in tariff duties to the Department of Finance (DoF).

Badoy also said he was surprised upon learning that the cargo was misdeclared in the manifest. He said it was indicated in the cargo manifest that the items being transported were imported rice when the truck left Cotabato City.

But the CIDG said Badoy failed to support his claims.

Pante said they were going to turn over the confiscated items to the Bureau of Customs (BoC) while charges were being prepared against its owner. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A STICKY situation it is for agrarian reform enforcer Braganza who talks with farmer leaders and authorities while installing beneficiaries on the Benedicto estate in La Carlota.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAR

Group formed to keep peace in hacienda

A TASK force was created to help ensure peace and order on an estate owned by the family of the late Marcos associate Roberto Benedicto and on which agrarian reform beneficiaries have been installed recently amid protests from the landowners' workers.

In a statement, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said the task force will prevent violence from erupting between members of the Nagasi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Nagasi) and workers of the Malibu Agro Corp.

The Nagasi farmers were installed recently on the estate amid protests from Malibu workers who also staked claims over the property.

Braganza said the task force—composed of the police, military, Land Bank of the Philippines, DAR and La Carlota officials—would also help provide support services and loans and help settle conflicts between the two groups.

Braganza said the rival groups should now set aside their differences since they are now co-owners of the land.

He quoted Yoyet de Leon, a daughter of Kitchie Benedicto, as offering to convince Malibu workers to unite with the Nagasi.

He said De Leon requested that 57 workers of the Malibu be also listed as beneficiaries.

Ex-mayor's son, 2 pals escape kidnapping try

CANDON CITY—A son of a former mayor here and his two companions escaped an abduction try on Wednesday night. Police said Adolfo Balbin, 21, eldest son of former Mayor Ramon Balbin, and his two companions were about to board their van when seven armed men tried to snatch them.

One of Balbin's companions, however, was able to run and reported the incident to a nearby police station.

Police arrested six of seven suspects: Cecilio Calindas, Maolito Gallardo, Richard Calindas, Christopher Calindas, Alfredo Bagsingit and Renato Galutan. The seventh suspect escaped.

The young Balbin said he and his companions Harold Villalobos, 26, and Geoffrey Gamad, 21, had just come out of his house when they saw an armed man near his Toyota Revo van.

When Balbin's group went near the van, the man's companions appeared and suddenly grabbed them.

Gamad was immediately forced inside the suspects' jeep parked near the van.

Villalobos and Balbin were able to run.

"When I saw Harold (Villalobos) escape, I also eluded my guard," Balbin said. He said he ran to a nearby videoke bar and called his father.

Responding policemen arrested the suspects. Confiscated from the suspects were a .45 cal. pistol with six live bullets, an M-16 Armalite rifle and a shotgun.

But Cecilio Calindas denied allegations that they were trying to abduct Balbin and his companions.

He claimed that his group was in Barangay Paras here when the young Balbin and his companions, aboard their van, pointed their guns at them.

Calindas said they followed Balbin and his companions and confronted them. The young Balbin denied Calindas' statements, saying his group never went to Barangay Paras. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army bomb expert now reb

DAVAO CITY—A former military bomb expert has joined the New People's Army (NPA) and was tapped by the rebels to spearhead bombings in Davao del Sur particularly in Digos City, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur police director, said they have started to monitor the activities of the former soldier, whom he declined to identify.

Navaja said the Intelligence Task Group, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), have been deployed to preempt the attacks.

He quoted intelligence reports as saying the former Army man stayed in Digos and has started to train NPA cadres on carrying out bomb attacks.

Police authorities here seized some 300 grams of potassium nitrate and calcium nitrate, which can be used to make bombs, while they were on display at the Davao Trade and Convention Center during the opening day of the Christmas Bazaar 2002.

SPO4 Miguel Vicente Jr. said the chemicals were actually fertilizers but are already banned. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New reports surface on corruption in Cebu City jail

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—New allegations of corruption have surfaced against some officials of the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Central Visayas (BJMP-7).

Some BBRC and BJMP officials were also accused of slashing the budget intended for the inmates' food on top of allegations that illegal drugs proliferate in the city jail and that wealthy inmates receive special treatment from jail officials.

The new charges cropped up after Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmena received an anonymous letter signed by "concerned BJMP personnel" dated Nov. 26 and addressed to the Cebu City council.

According to the letter, more than P500,000 in savings from the prisoners' monthly food allowance was allegedly divided among the warden, mess officer, BJMP regional director and some Manila-based personnel of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The letter said the BBRC has a monthly budget of P1.8 million for food from the national government and P200,000 in rice allowance from the Cebu City government.

"They only spent and utilized less than one-half of the amount to purchase viand for the prisoners," the letter said. "The prisoners are being fed with the worst kind of food from bones (to) pig heads."

"For sure, by just the sight of the food, you will lose appetite," the letter said.

The letter said the city officials should conduct an investigation to determine how much was really spent for the daily food ration of prisoners.

The irregularity was also the cause of problems with prisoners and discontent among other jail personnel who were not given shares, the letter said.

The letter claimed that some BBRC personnel resorted to illegal activities like accepting bribes and allowing drug pushers to conduct business inside the jail.

Supt. Maximo Altubar, BJMP director for Central Visayas, denied the allegations, saying the letter came from desperate BBRC personnel.

He said they were already tracing the identity of the letter writer.

Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus promised to include in their investigation the allegations raised in the letter.

New chief of staff 'a man of gratitude'

From page A1

whom were seated in the VIP section of the grandstand.

The outgoing chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, plugged a compact disc ("Sounds of '69") produced by his classmates from the Philippine Military Academy (Class '69). This, aside from his litany of thanks to the President for the chance to be AFP chief of staff.

The profusion of thankfulness partly explained why there is a simmering discontent in the officers' corps.

"Why build a career for 30 years when all you need is that one shining moment to get the President's attention and be justly rewarded?" a high-ranking general told Inq7.net.

Award-winning moment

Santiago's award-winning moment happened when he commanded the elite Task Force Libra, a composite group of military units that crushed the May 1, 2001 uprising of the supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Ms Macapagal said that Defensor isn't going to fade away like an old soldier but must prepare for his "second career." She did not say what.

Poet general to Chuck Norris

President Macapagal herself was in a mood for epithets. The command of the military passed on from the "poet general," she said to the "Chuck Norris, the Delta Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

Her marching orders, though, remain unchanged: "untie the Gordian knots of local terrorism, insurgency and poverty through successful military operations against the Abu Sayyaf and the local communist movement."

The poet general was Defensor, who bowed out of service after capping his military career with a 79-day tour of duty as AFP chief.

Santiago who assumed the post as the 31st AFP chief of staff was a former commander of the elite AFP Special Operations Command, hence Ms Macapagal's description of him as "Chuck Norris," the principal character in Hollywood's Delta Force war series.

"This is why I trust him with my life and I entrusted him the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," President Macapagal said.

It wasn't only Defensor and Santiago whom the commander-in-chief romanced during her speech at the turnover ceremonies.

Philosopher general

She described Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who was then AFP chief led the military's withdrawal of support from Estrada in the Edsa II uprising, as the "philosopher general."

Reyes was succeeded as AFP chief by Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, but curiously, the President didn't accord him a pet description except noting that he had served for more than a year.

Villanueva's successor, now retired Gen. Roy Cimatu, the President dubbed the "thinking general."

Serving only four months, Cimatu, was succeeded by Defensor only last September.

Leadership, not tenure

In her speech, President Macapagal defended her past decisions to appoint short-term AFP chiefs in the persons of Cimatu and Defensor, whose services she said "are our best argument that the length of command is not the most relevant trait of good military leadership."

She noted that in the case of Defensor, he launched Operation Gordian Knot, a comprehensive military plan of action meant to wipe out armed threats against the government, particularly the communist rebels.

"And I enjoin General Santiago to continue untying that Gordian knot," Ms Macapagal said.

The President said that while her choices for AFP chief have their own distinct personalities, they all have "one thing in common ... outstanding leadership, loyalty to the Constitution, and faith in the chain of command and the commander in chief."

"That is why I am unperturbed by criticisms of the short terms of the last two chiefs of staff," she said. "For it is leadership, not time, that is the sole measure of command."

AFP more poetic

Again referring to Defensor, President Macapagal said that he had met his goal of making the entire armed forces as "one force-faster, smarter, deadlier and more poetic."

"The poetry was not only in the term that he called his operation Gordian knot," she said. "The poetry was in his blending of conventional and unconventional approaches, which resulted in significant arrests and breakthroughs in our anti-terrorism and anti-insurgency campaigns."

In her speech, the President also reminded the AFP that a new age of warfare has dawned in this era of international terrorism, hence the need for "new approaches to the whole range of new threats."

"As I said when I installed Benjie Defensor as chief of staff, the modernization of doctrine should take into account the post-military affairs revolution thinking regarding the changing military mission brought about the growth in the power of criminal terrorists and other non-state organizations," the President said.

President Macapagal noted that these new threats "now challenge weakened traditional nation-states in many parts of the world."

Santiago's unabashed and profuse expressions of gratitude to Malacañang, the high heavens and his Chinese connections, drove another reality prevailing in the AFP today: one needs a "*padrino*" to get to the top.

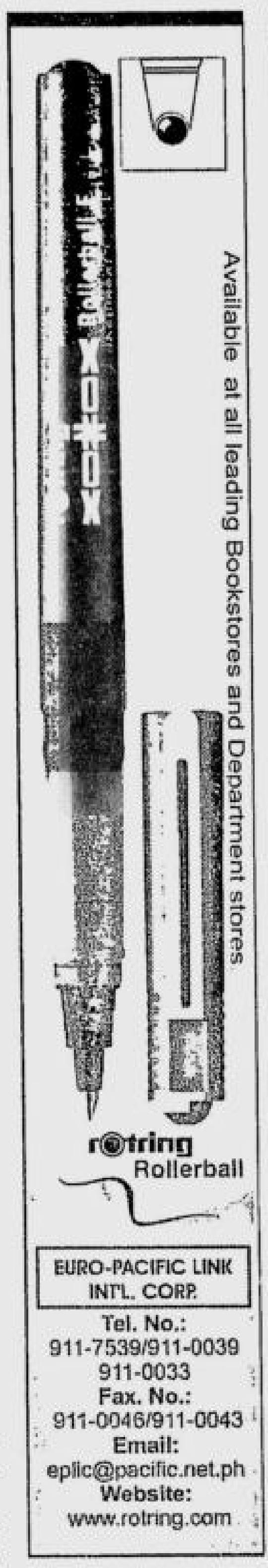
The position of the AFP chief of staff, often called as a "crowning glory," has become the most sought-after "reward"—more important even than the Medal of Valor, the military highest medal for gallantry in action.

To his Chinese friends, Santiago said that as he assumed the post as AFP chief of staff, "I will have, and I will be able to muster all their support."

In the AFP, it is known that a large number of suppliers belong to the Chinese community.

Turnover ceremonies in the past were traditionally formal but stirring affairs of pomp and circumstance.

The presence of revered retired generals such as Generals Jesus Vargas and Manuel Ojeda lent a "historic" ambiance to the occasion. The parents of the incoming AFP chief of staff—especially the mother—were accorded special mention for having raised a fine officer.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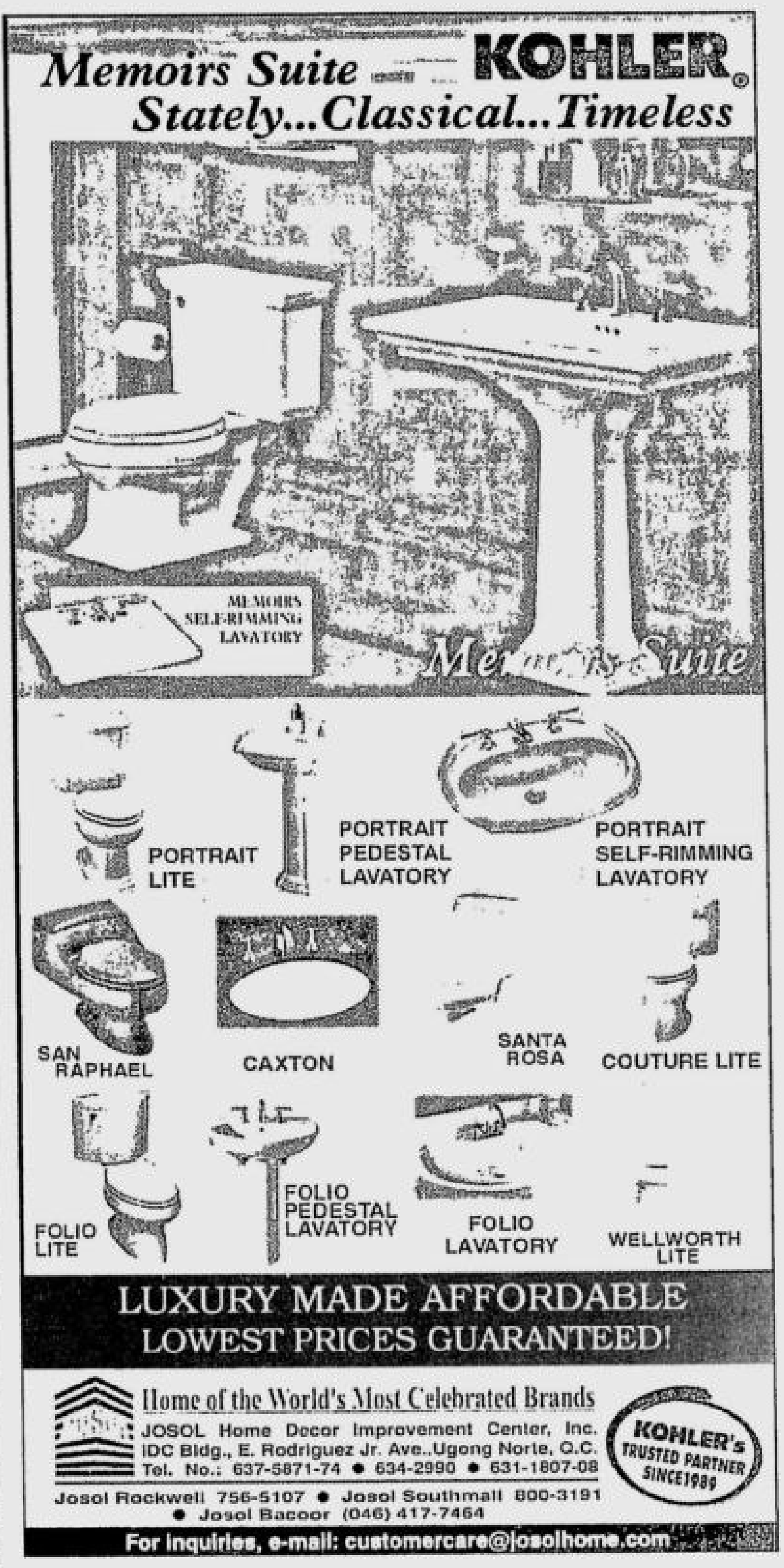
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- There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws	Schedule of Monthly Draws
First	November 29, 2002
Second	January 10, 2003
Third	January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws	Deadline for Submission of Entries
First	November 15, 2002
Second	December 26, 2002
Third	January 15, 2003

- The raffle draws will be held in the following locations.

Northeast Luzon	PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
Northwest Luzon	PSPC Raban LPG Depot, Raban, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon	PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway. Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
North Metro	PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro	PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro	PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog	PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, Km. 71 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna
Bicol	PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, National Highway, Pamplona, Camarines Sur
Cebu/Bohol	PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901 Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas	PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte	PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis, Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao	PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
South Mindanao	PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Calinan, Davao City

- Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail
- Winners can claim their prize(s) from the nearest Shellane distributor showroom.
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Terror grips 2 embassies in Makati

From page A1

when you get an explicit warning that somebody is going to do great damage to the Australian Embassy?"

Downer said the staff at the embassy, which is housed on five floors of the Doña Salustiana Tower on Paseo de Roxas, had been temporarily relocated to a nearby hotel to continue consular work.

Canadian counselor Heather Forton said her embassy—located at the Allied Bank building on Ayala Avenue—would attend to "urgent consular assistance" but that its other offices would be closed.

"We received information of a credible threat," Forton said, but added that they still did not know the nature of the threat.

"We have to be cautious. We have to close the embassy," she said. "We continue to be in contact with our headquarters in Ottawa."

The alerts appeared to be confined to the Philippines because Western nations reported no embassy closures elsewhere in Asia.

The EC office stopped answering its phone in the afternoon and building managers said it had been shut "indefinitely."

But Luc Vandebon, deputy head of the European mission in Manila, was noncommittal. "We are considering (closing the office)," was all he would say in a chance interview at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The US Embassy in Manila was closed for the Thanksgiving holiday but will reopen today, a spokesperson said. The British and New Zealand missions were operating normally.

Australia will keep its embassy closed at least through Monday, said an Australian defense attaché in Manila, Air Force Capt. Greg Sutton.

Forton declined to say when the Canadian Embassy might reopen. "We're monitoring the situation constantly and we will reopen when we feel that there is no longer a threat to our operations," she said.

Canadians may contact their embassy for assistance at 867-0001, and Australians, 1800-1612-0064.

Location and time

Downer told Australian radio that the threat his nation had received was "not only location-specific, targeting the Australian Embassy itself, but also time-specific in the sense that we are talking over the next few days."

He also said 24-hour security by private guards had been put in place to protect some national landmarks in Australia, including Sydney's Opera House and Harbor Bridge, and the Melbourne Cricket Ground, one of its largest stadiums. But he described the move as a precaution and not related to a specific threat.

"The assessment of the Australians is that, after (the October bombings on the Indonesian island of) Bali, they are being specifically targeted by (the terrorist network) al-Qaida," a Philippine security source told Reuters. "The terrorists seem to believe that, compared to the United States and Britain, the Australian security system is not on par."

At least 185 people, nearly half of them Australians, were killed in the Oct. 12 attacks in Bali that have been blamed on Jemaah Islamiah, a Southeast Asian militant group supposedly linked to al-Qaida.

But Golez disclaimed knowledge of specific threats.

"We have not received any information that would indicate they are under any threat," he was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "We have been working very closely with the ambassadors of Australia and of Canada . . . so that we can seek more clarification."

Supt. Jovito Gutierrez insisted that there were no threats that forced the two embassies to close.

He also denied that he went to the Australian Embassy yesterday morning to discuss security measures there.

"I went there for a routine inspection," he told reporters. "I was surprised to learn that the embassy was closed. When I inquired, I was told that there was a holiday." *Reports from Norman Bordadora, Leila B. Salaverria, Reuters, AP*

Closure irks Cabinet officials

From page A1

closure.

"We pointed out that the closure ... is a black eye for the Philippines in the international community," he said. "We called their attention to the fact that they closed their embassies because of information that they have yet to share with the (Philippine) government."

Ople quoted the two ambassadors as saying that the two embassies would be reopened "when they achieve their comfort level." But he said they had "no timetable" for this.

He also said the Philippine officials secured a commitment from the two ambassadors to get more information on the terrorist threat from their respective missions.

He added that the action of the two countries were understandable but that Philippine authorities were doing their best to secure foreign interests in the country.

The other Philippine officials at the meeting were National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, Makati police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, and other officials of the military and police.

Earlier in the day, Philippine defense, military and police officials described the embassies' closure as understandable.

"The Australian Embassy officials, I'm sure, acted on the basis of caution and maximum consideration for the safety of their facilities and personnel," Reyes told reporters. "Of course, this is understandable. But we have directed the defense intelligence agencies to coordinate closely with the (embassy officials) to see to it that adequate measures are undertaken to prevent such threats from materializing."

Ople himself said in a statement: "In the light of the information (on a looming attack) and other recent events that resulted in great loss of life for Australia, we Filipinos can't help but continue commiserating with our Australian friends.

"Ever the understanding friend in need, we are taking steps to work with Australia in addressing their concerns over the well-being of their citizens, especially while they are in our country."

But Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said the temporary closure of the two embassies would drive away investors and tourists.

He warned against concluding that the risks cited by the two countries were emanating from the Philippines: "For all we know, (these are) threats outside the country, which might have put all their embassies in the region at risk."

He stressed that while there might be bombings in the Philippines, most were perpetrated by foreign groups. He said global terrorists considered embassies "soft targets."

But Luz said he did not share Senate President Franklin Drilon's expressed view that it was an "overreaction" on the part of the two countries.

"Their embassy staff must be very careful in their risk assessment, and they were probably reacting as they saw fit," he said.

Luz also said such jitters were not unique to the Philippines and were "subject to wrong interpretation."

He pointed out that the International School and British School in Jakarta were closed for a day or two, and yet not much fuss was made about the incident.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said he understood the position of the Canadian and Australian governments, but conceded that tourism in the country would be affected.

"They won't have anything to lose if their apprehensions don't materialize, but we would," he said in an interview over radio station dzMM.

Gordon said his only consolation was that foreign tourists would still keep arriving and see for themselves the security measures being implemented in the country.

"We have always told them that the Philippines is ever ready for any possibility, whether real or imagined," he said.

General threat

Asked where the supposed threats were coming from, Reyes merely said the assessment was made by both Philippine and Australian intelligence agents.

Asked if there was a specific threat, he said it was "general in nature."

The newly installed AFP chief, Lt. Gen. Dionesio Santiago, said it was apparently the "usual" threat, but added that he still did not know anything about the matter.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the Philippine National Police, cited "perceived threats" that were "always there."

Golez admitted that he did not expect the closure of the two embassies because he had been in close touch with their officials and had even conducted briefings for them.

"We've been telling them that there is no direct threat to their embassies, but it's better to be on the alert," he said.

At the House, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos wondered whether the recent signing of the RP-US Mutual Logistics Support Agreement had anything to do with the closure of the two embassies.

"It's an unfortunate coincidence," Marcos said. "The signing of the MLSA stands testimony to the government's all-out support for the US war against terrorism."

She added: "It's high time we reviewed this policy in light of reports of the listing of US allies, including the Philippines, targeted by terrorists."

Generic threats

Other police officials downplayed the supposed threats, stressing that these were generic, not specific.

Even so, Ebdane ordered tightened security at the two embassies as well as the US Embassy in Manila.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, PNP director for operations, told reporters that the threats were an offshoot of an Australian intelligence report on the "growth of terrorist groups" in Southeast Asia.

He hinted that the threats did not come from a local terrorist group, such as the Abu Sayyaf.

"It's a generic threat on all embassies," he said.

But when asked if it had to do with active threats from al-Qaida and the Jemaah Islamiah, Querol said: "It's all a confluence of events. Remember, Australians have the most number of victims in (the Oct. 12 bombings in) Bali." *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño*

GMA admits RP one of Asia's weakest states

From page A1

plaguing the country, and acknowledged that as a politician, she shared the "collective blame."

Speaking in Camp Aguinaldo at the formal takeover of Gen. Dionesio Santiago as the new Armed Forces chief of staff, the President identified the "symptoms of a weak state" thus:

- "A large gap between the rich and the poor," which had been "exploited for political ends."
- "A political system based on patronage and ultimately corruption to support patronage."
- Of recent vintage, "the use of destabilization, black propaganda and character assassination as political tools of the trade."

Summing up, she said: "The common word in these is politics, too much politics."

The President also said a weak state was one where "dominant classes or sectors control or shape its policies, especially those dealing with the economy."

She said this was "our decades-old fundamental weakness."

But she stressed the importance of the "willingness to change." She said change could happen "over time" and invoked her own experience.

She noted that she had been in office for 20 months and that the problems she faced were "among the most difficult in our country's history."

"But I gained experience and maturity from both my correct decisions and my mistakes," she declared. "Thus, I can now face the future with greater certainty of what needs to be done."

Honesty

Ms Macapagal said honesty was necessary to find out the nation's "basic problems."

The "starting point is plain talk in an honest recognition of our national weaknesses," she said.

She lamented that "we are the first republican state in Asia yet today we have become one of the weakest," and added that for the "last 100 years, we have failed to build the strong republic."

"From (Andres) Bonifacio in Balintawak to Cory Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos in Edsa, we have struggled to correct this weakness by bringing power to the people," the President said.

She said that from Bonifacio's revolt cry in Balintawak in 1896 to the first Edsa uprising in 1986, the ultimate goal had always been to "transfer power over the state from the traditional, economic and political bosses to the people."

"Our task is to complete this revolution," she said.

Ms Macapagal also pointed out that more than anyone else, "the enemy to beat is ourselves."

Filipinos become the enemy, she said, "when we spread division rather than unity, when we put ourselves above country and profit above fairness, when we make politics replace patriotism in our country's hour."

She admitted that she, like other officials holding elective positions, whether in the administration or the opposition, was a politician.

"And all exist within this system," she said. "Thus, too much politics contributing to a weak state is a collective blame we must all share in."

Terrorists hit Israelis . . .

From page A1

dance group that was welcoming the Israeli tourists. The Israeli foreign ministry said two Israeli children were among those killed.

There were no injuries aboard the plane belonging to the Arkia charter company. The plane carried about 260 passengers and 10 crew members, Israeli officials and TV reports said. It landed safely in Tel Aviv shortly after 1030 GMT (6:30 p.m. Manila time).

A Kenyan police spokesperson, Kingori Muanga, told Israel Radio that the missiles were fired from a white vehicle about 2 km from the airport. He said police were hunting for three men in the vehicle.

Yoav Biran, the Israeli foreign ministry's director general, said the death toll from the hotel attack could rise.

"We aren't sure this is the end, and there are quite a number of Israelis injured," Biran said.

An Associated Press reporter saw seven bodies burnt beyond recognition in the hotel grounds. Rescue workers covered the bodies and searched for more casualties.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Sawe said he suspected Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. "I don't have any doubt this is al-Qaida," he said.

Dangerous escalation

Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "it is very possible that it is al-Qaida ... (but) it could be someone else."

Netanyahu said the missile attack represented "a very dangerous escalation of terror."

"It means that terror organizations and the regimes behind them are able to arm themselves with weapons which can cause mass casualties anywhere and everywhere," Netanyahu said.

"Today, they're firing the missiles at Israeli planes, tomorrow they'll fire missiles at American planes, British planes, every country's aircraft. Therefore, there can be no compromise with terror."

Israel Radio said all El Al flights from foreign airports were suspended.

Israel was sending a plane with doctors to Kenya to help treat and evacuate the wounded.

Land Rover

Muanga, the police spokesperson, said a Land Rover carrying the attackers slipped in behind a van carrying Israeli tourists to the hotel and when the gate opened up, it rammed into the hotel.

"They were suicide bombers," Muanga said. "As security guards opened for the two vehicles to enter, the vehicle (the Land Rover) moved into the front of the hotel. It was on fire."

"I heard a loud explosion," an Israeli hotel guest, identified only as Rami, told Israel TV's Channel Two.

Steven Odero, a waiter at the hotel, said a green all-terrain vehicle approached the gate of the hotel and crashed through a barrier outside the hotel just before the explosion. Its passengers had been arguing with guards at the hotel before breaking through the barrier, Odero said.

At the same, a small aircraft flew overhead and appeared to drop something near the hotel's reception, he said.

Israeli Aharon Hammel, who owns a hotel near the Paradise, told Israel Army Radio that the hotel was badly damaged.

"There is a lot of smoke," Hammel said. "The whole hotel is burned totally, both wings, the lobby and everything, it's all burned."

A hotel guest, Dr. Nimrod Grissarov, said he had arrived Thursday morning with a group from the Israeli town of Beersheba, with children celebrating a Bat Mitzva. He said at least 15 Israelis were wounded.

"I can tell you personally I treated three victims whom I would classify as moderately wounded," he told Israeli Army Radio.

Flash of light

The pilot of the Arkia plane saw a flash of light on the left side of the plane, said an Arkia official, Shlomo Hanael.

The pilot initially prepared for an emergency landing in Nairobi, Kenya, to check whether the plane was damaged, but after consultations with Israeli officials, it was decided to fly directly to Israel, Israel TV's Channel Two said. Hanael said there was no damage to the plane.

The Israel Embassy in Nairobi was cordoned off Thursday.

On Aug. 7, 1998, a blast at the US Embassy in Nairobi killed 219 people—including 12 Americans—and wounded 5,000. A nearly simultaneous attack on the US Embassy in neighboring Tanzania killed 12 people and injured more than 80. The terrorists convicted in the attacks have been linked to the al-Qaida terror network. AP

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Escaler leaves for US; Nani, Mark trade taunts

From page A1

cause a criminal charge would only delay the US extradition case against the congressman.

But Jimenez said that Escaler "dropped the bombshells on himself"—referring to yesterday's Inquirer headline.

Jimenez said the moves of Escaler and Perez were actually meant to cover up the extortion case. He also called on the government to place Escaler on the hold-departure list—belatedly, as it turned out.

But spokespersons for both the Palace and the business community pointed out that Jimenez, as the accuser, bore the burden of proving his accusations.

"It's entirely in his (Jimenez's) power; all he has to do is authorize Escaler (to talk about the Coutts Bank account). There is no need for any Palace action on that matter," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Romulo said Malacañang had already taken the right steps in addressing the controversy. "Even a cabinet secretary is entitled to the presumption of innocence. The accuser has the burden of proof to present his evidence. We should wait for that instead of speculating on so many things; let's calm down and go back to business," Romulo said.

Escaler, the self-described "professional investment and private banker" whom Jimenez identified as the holder of Coutts Bank Account No. 13706, left for Los Angeles, California, on board Philippine Airlines flight PR102 at about 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Escaler, who allegedly brokered the $2 million payoff between Jimenez and Perez, left just hours after giving a press briefing where he said he would reveal his transactions with Jimenez if and when he is allowed in writing by the congressman.

The Inquirer repeatedly tried to get in touch with Escaler through his mobile phone. He did not issue any statement explaining his trip or saying how long he would be away.

But his lawyer told TV reporters last night it was an ordinary business trip.

Yesterday, Jimenez accepted Escaler's challenge to grant the banker permission to divulge details of his accounts—but only up to a point.

Jimenez said he would not issue Escaler anything in writing because the dare was merely a ploy by Escaler to legalize the extortion.

"I wholeheartedly accept Escaler's challenge for him to reveal everything he knows about the $2-million extortion money he facilitated on behalf of Secretary Perez," Jimenez said in a statement.

"But I cannot give such an authorization because I am not his client, we never had any business relationship and Coutts bank account No. 13706 is not mine but admittedly Mr. Escaler's," Jimenez said.

He said Escaler was trying to lure him to issue an authorization to make him appear as his client.

"How clever of him, trying to legitimize a patently illegal act of extortion," he said.

"If I give him a written authority, I will become his client and the account will be mine. I am not that stupid," Jimenez said in a phone interview.

Four documents?

Perez criticized Jimenez for promising to produce "four documents" against him in just four days.

"It only means that he's fishing. He doesn't have anything (against me). In short, the charges are not true," Perez said.

"He should fry because he made charges without basis," Perez added.

He asked why the lawmaker delivered a privilege speech accusing him of extortion despite the absence of any concrete evidence to back his claims.

"Kung ganito din lang e, di ko rin siya tatantanan," said Perez who said he regretted ever having met Jimenez.

Perez also castigated the lawmaker for pressuring the Palace to look for evidence to prove the existence of the alleged $2-million bribe.

"Why is he forcing the Palace to look for evidence? He should be the one to do it. He made the accusations, so he should be responsible enough to prove them. We owe it to the public that we get to the bottom of this. Let the truth come out," he said.

"What else can Mr. Mark Jimenez say against me?" he added.

Although Perez said he did not know Escaler all that well, he pointed out that the latter's revelations aired over national television Wednesday night proved his innocence.

"So far no evidence has been presented pointing to my guilt. On the contrary, evidence keeps coming up proving my innocence."

He added: "Not only that, Mr. Jimenez has not presented anything other than pieces of paper which are unsigned, unverified, not containing any name or pointing to me."

Senate approval

Meanwhile, the Senate is set to ratify next week a committee report recommending the approval without amendment of a treaty providing for a mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between the Philippines and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday that Committee Report No. 62, endorsed by the committee on foreign relations, will be submitted for Senate concurrence by its chair, Sen. Manny Villar.

The report, signed by 16 senators, was drafted by its former chair and now secretary of foreign affairs, Blas Ople.

Drilon said that once the agreement is ratified, the government can immediately ask Hong Kong to provide the details of the controversial Coutts Bank account.

Jimenez had reiterated his call for the opening of the Coutts Bank account.

"The $2 million may no longer be in the account but opening it up would reveal the money trail and determine whose pockets the money dropped into. I am most positive it landed on Secretary Perez's lap, courtesy of Mr. Escaler," he said yesterday.

Jimenez said Perez's offer of a power of attorney would be useless unless the account, which he believes belongs to Escaler, is opened.

"They asked (Sen. Panfilo) Ping Lacson for a power of attorney but they did not use it," Jimenez said.

He was referring to Lacson's alleged overseas dollar accounts which allegedly came from illegal means.

Jimenez had asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to seek the cooperation of Hong Kong authorities in opening the Coutts Bank account.

Civil case

On the legal front, Perez said his lawyers would be filing a civil case against Jimenez.

"Under Section 11 of Presidential Decree 1069, a person charged with a criminal offense can't be extradited," Perez said. But he stressed that he was not barred from slapping Jimenez with a civil case for damages.

Criminal charges may jeopardize Jimenez's possible extradition to the United States.

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, who blew the whistle on the alleged $2-million bribery, could be charged with both civil and criminal charges, Perez said.

"We are still studying which statement can and can't be used against them," said Perez, noting that both Jimenez and Villarama attacked him during separate privilege speeches.

"If (they) swear to whatever false (statements they said), they can be sued for perjury," he added.

Perez believed that the ball was now in the hands of the lawmaker and his close associate Villarama.

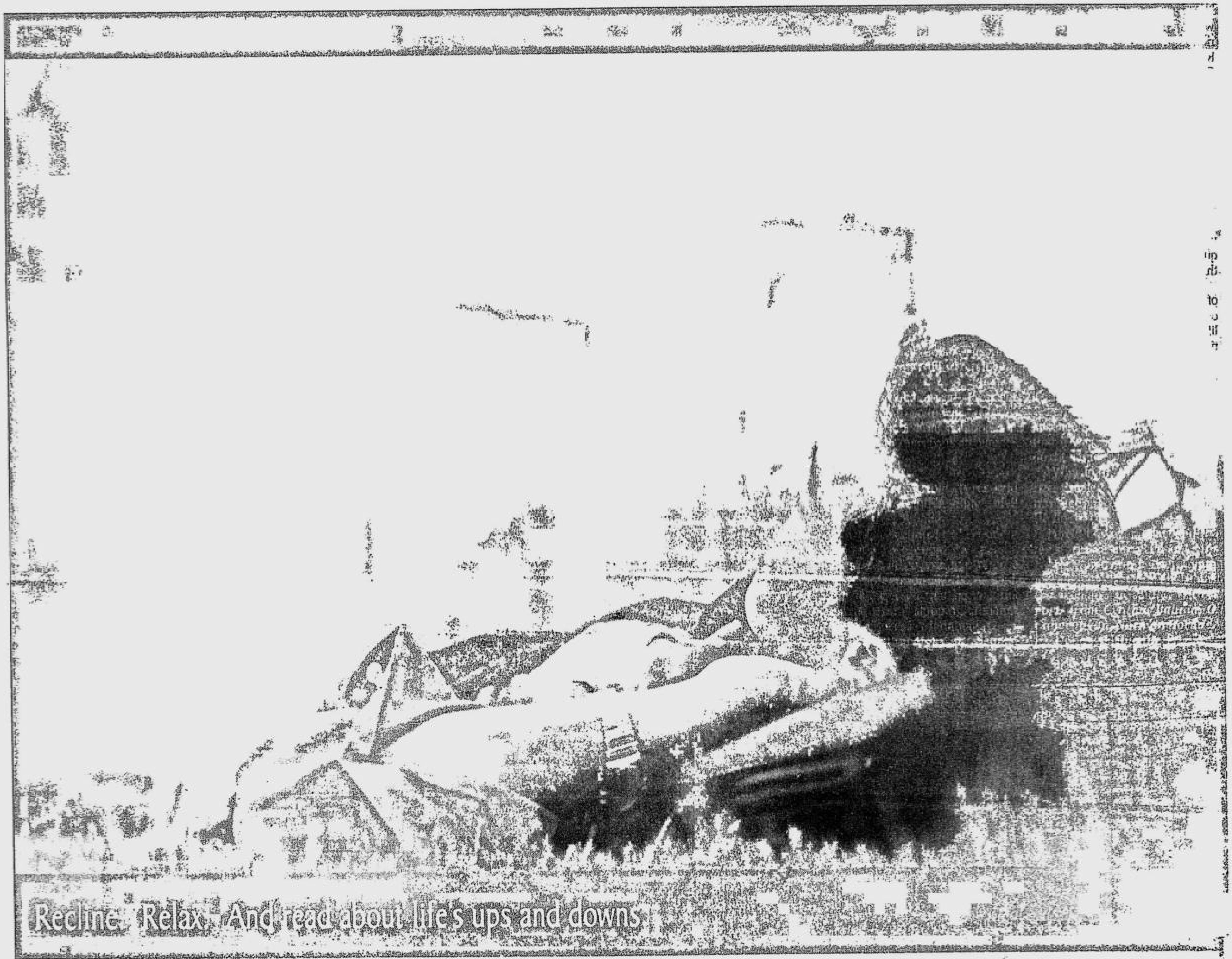
"I have already indicated my willingness to issue a special power of attorney to give (Jimenez) blanket authority to withdraw from the alleged Coutts Bank Account," he said. "I reiterate, whatever he finds there it's his."

Perez, whose 30-day leave of absence started Wednesday, said that it was now Jimenez' turn to do the same.

"Why is he (afraid) to authorize Escaler to talk about their transactions? Why is he unwilling (to do so)?"

Perez, however, conceded that the storm was not yet over.

"He won't stop ... even though his allegations were all rubbish *(kalokohan),"* he said. *With reports from Cynthia Balana, Gil Cabacungan, Norman Bordadora, Dona Pazzibugan*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Buhain gets assurances

PUERTO Princesa and Palawan are all geared up for the fourth Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy that starts Dec. 1, chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission said. Mayor Edward Hagedorn andPalawan Gov. Joel Reyes have given assurances the Games would be a success.

Amateur Pagunsan grabs lead with 64

AMATEUR ace Juvic Pagunsan, working his shots around the swirling winds like a pro, collected nine birdies in equalling the course mark of six-under-par 64 yesterday to erect a five-stroke lead after two rounds of the P600,000 First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit.

Pagunsan tamed the winds in the San Miguel Beer-presented leg at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club course with a variety of birdie-producing shots.

The eye-popping rampage included a dazzling 40-footer on No. 2 and a wedge shot from 15 yards on No. 7.

At the end of a tough day, the 24-year-old's name was on top of the 39 pros who survived the cut with his eight-under 132 aggregate, putting the Southeast Asian Games champ on line to become the first amateur to win a pro event in nearly 12 years.

Title-hungry Robert Pactolerin, almost flawless in the first round with his 65, and Benjie Magada shot a 72 and 70, respectively, to be at 137.

Dan Cruz, knocking on the door of his first title in almost six years, bolted into contention with a 65 and Richard Sinfuego submitted a 71.

Journeyman Peter Miñoza was alone at 139 after a 73, ahead of a five-man group at 141 composed of Carito Villaroman (74), Danny delos Santos (73), Rey Alit (70), Noli Kempis (71) and Vic Santia. *Jong Arcano*

PAGUNSAN

Woods wins record fifth Grand Slam tournament

POIPU BEACH, Hawaii–Tiger Woods continued his dominance at the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, winning the tournament for the fifth straight time with a tournament-record 11-under 61.

Woods finished with at a record 17 under par to win by 14 strokes over Justin Leonard and Davis Love III.

Wednesday's score also broke the tournament and course record at the 7,081-yard oceanside Poipu Bay Golf Course on Kauai.

The 61 tied Woods' personal best for an 18-hole tournament round.

Love shot 69, while Leonard closed with a 72 in the 36-hole event for this year's major champions. PGA champion Rich Beem finished last at 1-over 145 after a 73.

With Woods winning two majors and British Open champion Ernie Els withdrawing from the event, Love and Leonard gained invitations based on their finishes in those majors.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Jobal Abellar clocked 33.57 seconds to rule the slalom-flat bottom runabout category in the first leg of the 3rd National Jet Ski Tour at the Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Davao City.

Samsung Int'l golfest Jan. 7 at Wack Wack

THIS year's Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf Championship comes off the wraps on Jan. 7 at Wack Wack Golf, with the United States expected to lead the foreign invasion.

Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada, president of the organizing Philippine Junior Golf Federation, said that aside from the US, the other countries expected to participate are Australia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Tahiti, Guam and Hong Kong.

Said Cantada: "This year's tournament is happy to have Samsung, through its president Sang Youl Eom, as our main partner."

Cantada launched the event at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club in Bacolod City in 1998.

He shifted the venue to Wack Wack the next year. Since then, it has gained the stature as the country's only annual international junior event.

"Singapore is the first country to confirm its participation," Cantada said.

CANTADA

Registration deadline is on Dec. 15.

Cantada said that the PJGF together with Wack Wack have rendered the internationally famous Filipino hospitality at its finest.

"Again we are not charging entry fees and complimentary rooms will be given to two members of each junior golf delegation at the Edsa Shangri-La, the official hotel for the past four years," he said.

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Mavs' 14th win ties NBA mark; Lakers lose

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan–Michael Finley had a huge first half, counting 30 of his 42 points, to carry the Dallas Mavericks to their 14th straight victory, a 102-82 rout of the Detroit Pistons.

Dallas became the first team to open a season with 14 straight victories since the Boston Celtics in 1957.

The Mavericks are now just one shy of equalling the NBA record for consecutive wins to start a season.

In Orlando, a bout of the flu and a bad back failed to slow Tracy McGrady, who poured in 38 points to lead the Magic to a 112-102 win over the underachieving Los Angeles Lakers, now just 5-11 on the season.

The Lakers' Kobe Bryant matched McGrady with 38 points, with superstar center Shaquille O'Neal, who was playing just his fourth game of the season, counting 28.

It was Orlando's first win over Los Angeles–a loser in Miami on Tuesday night–after seven straight losses. The 1948-49 Washington Capitols and the 1993-94 Houston Rockets each won 15 times.

It was the best night of Finley's nine-year NBA career.

Dirk Nowitzki, hampered by a strained Achilles, added 22 points for Dallas while grabbing 15 rebounds.

Richard Hamilton got 19 points to pace the hosts, with Ben Wallace pulling down 24 rebounds.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Boston 92, Chicago 82; Orlando 112, LA Lakers 102; Philadelphia 83, Miami 74; New York 87, Toronto 81; Dallas 102, Detroit 82; Memphis 117, Seattle 99; Milwaukee 112, Cleveland 80; Minnesota 90, Sacramento 74; New Orleans 106, Atlanta 94; San Antonio 99, Denver 68; Phoenix 82, New Jersey 75; Houston 91, Golden State 84.

PBL RESULTS

WELCOAT 95, SUNKIST 57
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PBA GAMES TODAY

(Astrodome)
5:30 p.m.--Red Bull vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m.--Coca Cola vs Talk N' text

SAVER

Efren "Bata" Reyes ponders his shot en route to beating American Earl Strickland yesterday, 9-5, after Django Bustamante bowed to Finn Mika Immonen, 9-8, in the LG Billiards Classic at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City. ROMY HOMILLADA

SPORTSWATCH

BASKETBALL

Hartmann, Burlington join NBL

HARTMANN Seigle and the RP Burlington Young Men's team have joined the National Basketball League, completing the six-team cast for the Invitational Cup on December 2-7 at the Tinga gym in Taguig, Rizal. Former PBA stars Samboy Lim, Al Solis, Pido Jarencio and Tino Pinat and upcoming Manny Mendoza and Mark Seigle, younger brother of superstar Andy and Danny Seigle, will banner the Hartmann Seigle squad, which is managed by Mike Ganglani. NBL vice president/operations Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla welcomed the participation of Hartmann Seigle and RP Burlington. "Their participation is a big boost to this young league," said Padilla, who is also the national pistol shooting kingpin.Handled by Rudy Tan and coached by Johnny Tam, RP Burlington will be led by Jonathan Fernandez, Brit Reroma, Rodel Chua and Maui Pradas.

TENNIS

UST pockets PCA Open title

REIGNING UAAP champion University of Santo Tomas defeated De La Salle University, 2-1, last Sunday to win the intercollege division of the 21st PCA Open Tennis Championships at the PCA Indoor court. The Green Archers, mentored by Roland Kraut, won the first match after Yannick Guba and Nico Faller scored a 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 victory over Chase Tinio and Andre Cruz. La Salle threatened in the third match, winning the first set, 6-1, behind Paolo Olbes and Gino Almario. But Francis Venzon and Marco Lua fought back to win the next two sets to seal the victory. On its way to the finals, UST defeated PU, 2-1, and College of Saint Benilde, 3-0. San Beda finished third.

COCKFIGHTING

Derby tonight offers P3M

A WHOPPING cash prize of P300,000 await the winners of Pasay City Cockpit's big-time 4-cock derby tonight. Exclusive sponsors are Sagupaan Complex or 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free. Host is the Spencer Group while entry fee is P10,000. Pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano said today's participants include William Co, Lito Orillaza, OPMI president Vic Yu, Cito Manansala, Wilson Go, Danny Ty, Romero Yu, JR Pasay, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado and Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas. Entries will be accepted until 2 p.m. Call 843-1890 and 843-1746 for other details. Meanwhile, those who wish to join the "Pasko Na Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby" on Dec. 13 and 14, must make a reservation of cockhouse now. To be hosted by dela Rosa, at stake is a guaranteed pot of P1 million while entry fee is P11,000.

MOTOCROSS

Caltex-Revtex riders prevail

SUPERSTAR Caltex-Revtex-KTM riders Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres ended the season in style as they ruled the final leg of the Superferry National Motocross Super Series 2002 at the Pamri Racetracks, Army Adventure Zone in Taguig, Metro Manila recently. Aguilar took a spill in the opening heat and placed dead last in the earlier stages, allowing his rivals to build an enormous lead over him. But the 28-year-old six-time rider of the year recovered his bearings as he outmaneuvered his rivals, one by one, en route to the swashbuckling Pro Open victory. San Andres was equally impressive. Still nursing two broken arms, the 13-year-old Wonder Boy took part in the race just for pride, but still made his rivals eat dust in an emphatic win in the Mini-Class division. "At least, we ended the 7-leg series on a winning note," said Aguilar, who is also a recent winner in the Tagum City motocross and placed a strong third in the tough Kuala Lumpur Supercross.

WINNERS ALL

Paul del Rosario (center), the two-time JSAP Rider of the Year, will represent the country next week in the Thailand King's Cup Jet Ski Championships. With him are fellow winners Maite Villegas (left) and Anna Hyde in the recently concluded 2nd Gerry's Grill/Networkx Jetsports Invitational Series in Subic.

Leongson-Aguilar 'moto' rematch seen

THE SEASON'S not over for Ernie Leongson, Glenn Aguilar and Jovie Saulog. The best motocross riders in the country go at it one final time in the Clark Centennial Invitational Motocross 2002 at the Clark Economic Zone, Clarkfield in Pampanga on Nov. 29-30.

Organized by the Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and sanctioned by the Philippine Association of Motorcycle Riders, Inc. or PAMRI, the two-day motocross extravaganza is presented by Clark Development Corp., Pampanga Off-Roaders and Superferry.

"We figured that one final motocross event of this magnitude wouldn't hurt a little as far as giving our best riders an avenue to showcase their God-given talents is concerned," said PAMRI president Richard Gomez, who will personally attend the Clark motocross.

Other sponsors of the event are Petron 2T AutolubeNature's Spring Drinking Water, Seagull Glassworks, Bench, No Fear and Itti Shoes. Official practice day is on Nov. 29 while race proper is set the following day.

"It should be a red letter day for motocross enthusiasts in Pampanga because the best riders of the country have vowed to provide them with the same daredevil, top-rate action that has marked past Hartebeest races," said Marilen Nunez, CEO of Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.

Jody Coseteng bags third 'Driver of the Year' plum

SUPERSTAR Caltex-Havoline-Autoplus driver Jody Coseteng re-affirmed his status as the country's best in circuit racing by bagging his third Driver of the Year award with flourish in the SVI Challenge at the Subic Raceway recently.

Toting an enormous lead over his closest pursuers in the premier blaze super saloon category, Coseteng had the luxury of even skipping the 13th and 14th rounds.

But the top Caltex driver still went all out for the jugular and was rewarded with twin victories in the final two rounds.

"I only had to respond to the competitive juices flowing within," said Coseteng, whose car is specially designed by Autoplus. "I figured that if I were to win the award, then I might as well win it in style."

Sharing the limelight with Coseteng were teammates Dr. Peewee Mendiola, team captain Oscar Aguilar and Mikko David.

Peace chessfest starts tomorrow

THE SIXTH leg of the 2002 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express, better known by its acronym Peace 2002, reels off tomorrow at Land Bank Plaza, Malate, Manila. Tournament starts at 1 p.m.

Peace 2002 is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank of the Philippines. Other details of Peace 2002 can be obtained by contacting the Acca at 892-8759.

Expected to slug it out in the Success section are defending champion Dennis San Juan, grand prix leader Jenny Mayor, Ryan Ruiz, Tyrone Guya, Alfredo Paez, Noel Garcia and Robert Arellano.

Marave eyes history

DEFENDING champion Pepon Marave hopes to rewrite history tomorrow in the championship round of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Marave, currently with 362 points, is aiming to become the first driver to win a third Karter of the Year plum in this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, WG&A Super Ferry, Brdigestone, Nokia, Zip-Zip, Zed and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Chairman Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon and general manager Angelo Ver. He will try to pull the most important win against closest rival Allan Uy of MOFO who's just close behind with 327 points after ruling the Formula A class in the last leg of this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

BAP sends referees to Taipei

FOUR members of the Basketball Referees Commission will participate in the Fiba-Asian Basketball Confederation referee clinics on Nov. 29-30 in Taipei.

International referee Richard Villanueva will join the Fiba refresher course where he has to pass physical aptitude and theory tests for him to renew his license.

"This is a crucial program of the BAP as we hope the Philippine Sports Commission will support us once again," said Graham Lim, BAP secretary general.

Romulo Raytos, Ferdinand Pascual, Arnulfo Bermeo and Jerry Jimenez will participate in the candidates' course, hoping to join Villanueva in the list of Fiba referees.

Supervising the clinic is Fiba's Lubomir Kotleba.

Those who will be able to obtain Fiba licenses will be allowed to officiate in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments.

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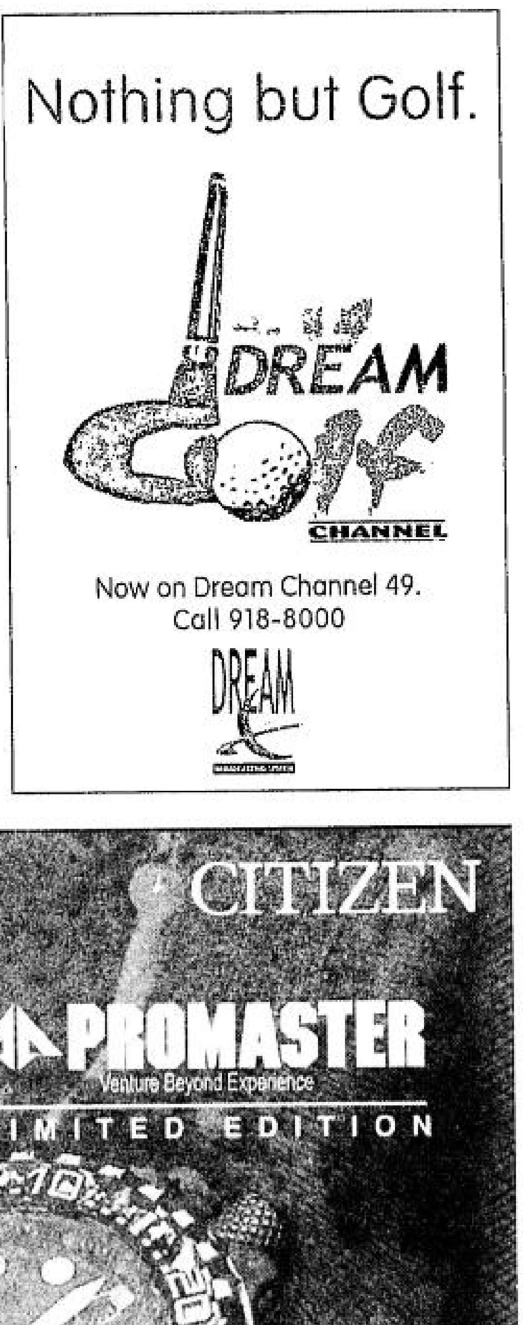
Race 3--1. Security Master 2. Picture Perfect 3. Shining Jo 4. Schumacher
Race 4--1. Dynamic Jason 2. Security Sense 3. Bastonero 4. Ramblin' Rose
Race 5--1. Lady Victoria 2. Standing Ovation 3. May's Magic 4. Stock Rising 5. Scream for Chance
Race 6--1. Free Entrance 2. Silver Lining 3. My Lady Ann 4. Expeditor 5. Living Legend
Race 7--1. The Dominator 2. Kingair 3. Court General 4. Pride of Mandaue 5. Don't Tell Me
Race 8--1. Señor Parior 2. Suterian Era 3. Regal Reality 4. Jahard 5. Rose in Bloom
Race 9--1. Heza Gunner 2. Front Page 3. Ready Aim Fire 4. Rama 5. Boogie Shoes 6. Courage Heart



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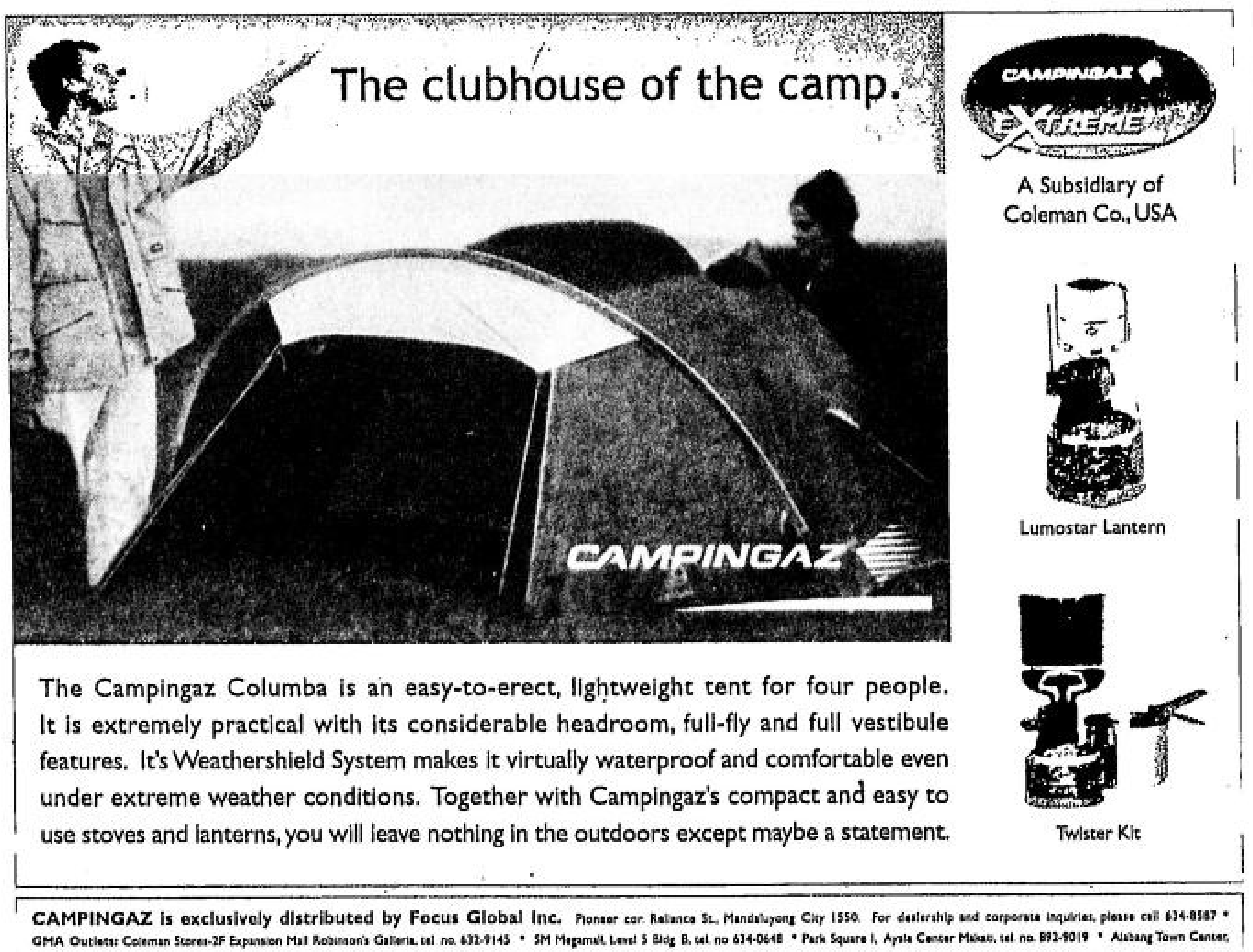

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METRO
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Editor Louie C. Camino

Selecta scion feared dead

By Tina Santos

THE ABSENCE of ransom demand yesterday led to fears that the abducted 34-year-old scion of the owner of Selecta Feeds could have been killed by his captors.

This was revealed by a high-ranking Caloocan police officer who refused to be named, as he hinted that there are no other reasons why the abductors of Danilo Bautista, said to be a son of Selecta Feeds owner Don Mauro Arce by another woman, would keep him alive.

Bautista was forcibly taken by heavily armed men in Caloocan on Tuesday.

Earlier Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, chief of the station intelligence and investigation division, revealed that the brains behind Bautista's abduction was out for revenge and not for money.

Borromeo likewise disclosed that two other supervisors in the firm, identified as Cristina Ducusin and Zeny Olgado, have also received death threats following the abduction of Bautista, operations manager of Selecta Feeds.

One Selecta supervisor had reportedly received a phone call from an unidentified man who said *"Nasompolan ko na kayo,"* the investigation chief said.

Borromeo said the victim had earned a number of enemies inside the firm when product transactions started to be coursed through him for approval.

Prior to Bautista's abduction, police said the victim had received death threats last month through letters, miniature coffins and live M16 ammunition.

Bautista had just left his office at the Selecta Feeds Compound on Susana Road, Barangay 170, North Caloocan early Tuesday morning and was on his way home aboard his Mitsubishi Adventure with driver-helper Joemel Espperga when a blue L-300 van cut their path a few blocks from the firm.

Four men, believed to be hired guns, dragged Bautista out of his vehicle and shoved him into the van before speeding away toward Bulacan, police said.

Esperga, the driver, told police that the suspects pistol-whipped him before fleeing with Bautista.

On Wednesday, Borromeo said they held three men under custody to shed light on the case.

They were identified as Selecta Feeds foreman Ramiro Gonzales, dismissed supervisor Felix Avila Jr. and company driver Jay dela Cruz.

The three suspects are scheduled to undergo polygraph tests in Camp Crame, Quezon City on Monday.

Munti inmates gird for battle / A26

Street vending legit in Manila / A26

Christmas truce granted vendors

By Philip C. Tubeza

MILITANT vendors and the government have reached a happy compromise after a meeting last week in Malacañang.

Don Pangan, Sanlakas information officer, said President Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed that there should be no dispersal of street vendors in Metro Manila without the vendors being consulted first by their mayors.

Pangan said the President also ordered that no squatter community in "danger" zones–along creeks and railroads–would be demolished without first having a viable relocation site.

"This is just a first step. The government should really provide concrete solutions to problems of the urban poor," Pangan said.

He said the militant urban poor met with the President from 4:30 to 8 p.m. last Friday.

The meeting was facilitated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani and attended by Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor.

The Catholic Church, a major supporter of Arroyo, recently hit the administration for its wanton demolition of urban poor communities and the violent dispersal of street vendors.

"Fernando at first would not listen to the vendors' pleas. Tiger *siya muna*. But they presented their concerns. Some of them cried," Pangan said.

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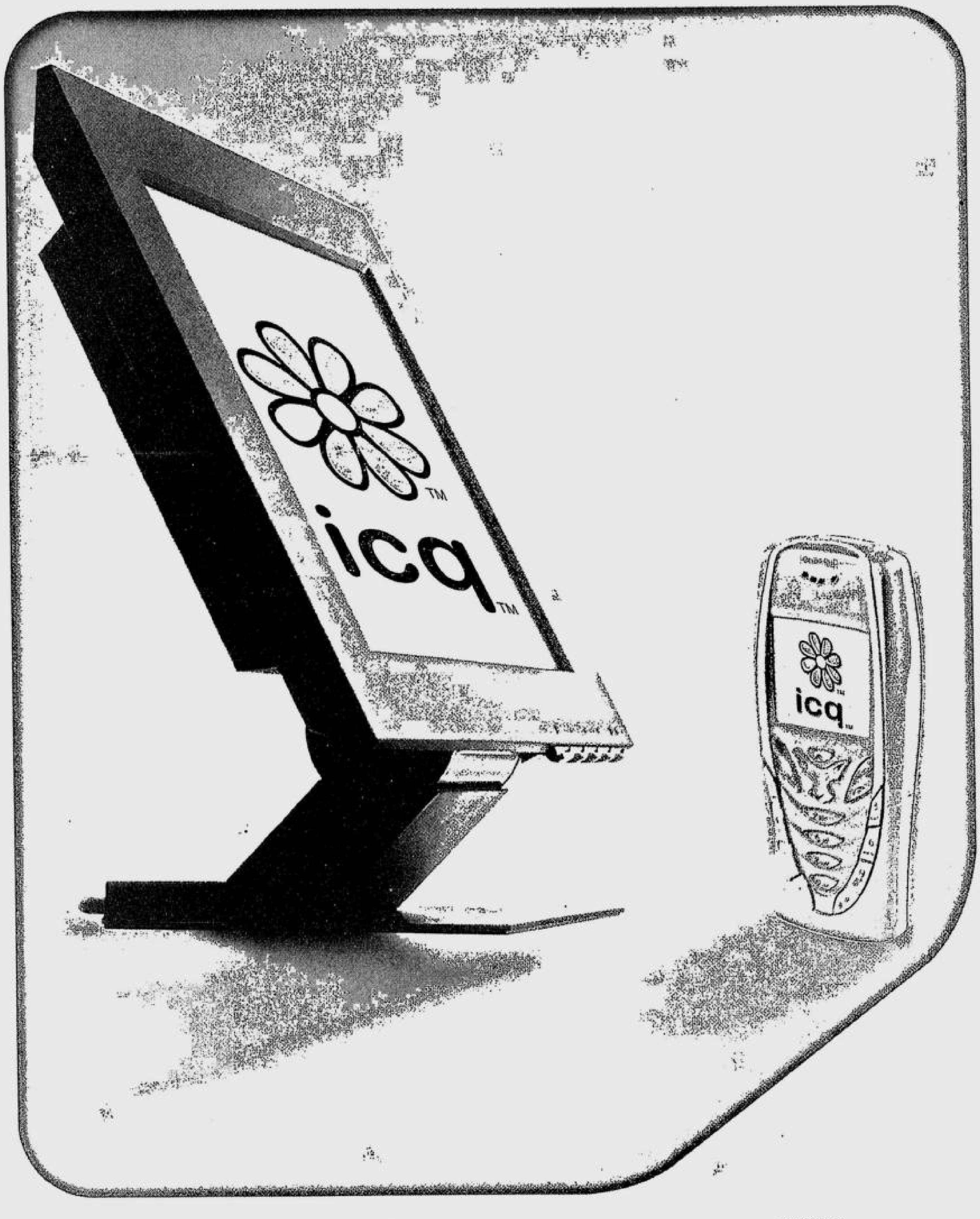

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Munti inmates gird for battle

By Christian Esguerra

TENSION is running high at the New Bilibid Prisons following the assassination of Zamboanga town Vice Mayor Perfecto Cebedo last Sunday, a jail official revealed yesterday.

The NBP insider said inmates identified with ex-Zamboanga Rep. Romeo Jalosjos are girding for battle against the group of the Yap brothers of Misamis Occidental.

Members of the Batang City Jail gang, of which Jalosjos is "senior adviser," are supposedly blaming Rey Yap and his brother Roy for the killing of Cebedo, a political ally of Jalosjos.

The Yaps, together with businessman Ambeth Antonio, are said to be Jalosjos' counterparts among members of the Sigue-Sigue/Sputnik faction.

"We're expecting a clash any time, that's why prison guards are closely monitoring the activities of both groups," the NBP source told the *Inquirer*. "One spark can lead to a full-scale riot."

Jalosjos is doing time for the rape of an 11-year-old girl, while Antonio was convicted for the slay of basketball star Arnie Tuadles.

Cebedo's killing was particularly important to Batang City Jail members since he had just attended Jalosjos' party at the maximum security compound when he was gunned down in front of his family in Alabang Sunday night.

Rey Yap, former mayor of Sapang Dalaga in Misamis Occidental, and his brother are serving life terms for masterminding the killing of Cebedo's brother Victorio in 1992.

Ricardo Macalá, Bureau of Corrections director, yesterday said he has placed jail guards at the maximum security compound on alert to prevent any clash between supporters of Jalosjos and the Yaps.

On Wednesday, Senior Supt. Erasto Lim Sanchez said Cebedo's assassins could have traveled to Muntinlupa all the way from Mindanao to carry out the hit.

Sanchez's theory reinforced widespread speculations that the Cebedo family's staunch political rival, the Yap clan of Misamis Occidental, could have masterminded the killing.

Sanchez, Muntinlupa police chief, said investigators are zeroing in on the Yaps' possible involvement but could not yet summon them for questioning.

"Knowing is different from proving," Sanchez said. "We know the Cebedos believe the victim was killed by the Yap family. But we still have to gather more evidence."

Sanchez said the gunmen were "experts" as indicated by the weapons they had used—M-16 and M-14 rifles—and the manner by which they had liquidated Cebedo.

MASANG
TAKV
R
LITISTA
SL

GOBBLED UP
To denounce the failure of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to deliver on her promises of good governance, transparency and poverty alleviation, a member of the Sosyalistang Kilusang Masa (KSM) allows himself to be gobbled up by an effigy of a crocodile, supposedly symbolizing the Chief Executive, during yesterday's protest press conference in Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC

Nayon officials face more raps

MORE charges are being readied against the Nayong Pilipino management following the "destruction" of the 30-year-old park to accommodate a controversial airport project.

Around 110 displaced concessionaires and employees are set to sue park officers for "destroying a national heritage," according to their lawyer Oliver Lozano.

Lozano yesterday said the continuous delay in the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 proved that the Nayon management should not have "sold" a portion of the park to airport authorities for around P500 million.

Christian Esguerra

'Bosero' publisher nabbed

By Philip Tubeza

THE government is throwing the book on a tabloid publisher known for his smut publications.

Besides arresting him for libel, the National Bureau of Investigation charged Samuel "Sunny" N. Mallari with obscene publication.

The Quezon City government has also ordered the closure of his firm.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men nabbed Mallari, 45, of 1948 Tomas Mapua St. Sta. Cruz, Manila, and owner of Sunny Publishing House, at No. 3 Boston St., Barangay Kaunlaran, Cubao, Quezon City, on Wednesday.

Mallari publishes the tabloids Toro, Toro Tonight, Bosero, and Bosero Tonight, Wycoco added.

He said the NBI began investigating Mallari after the anti-smut group Samahang Itinatag ng mga Kabataan Lingkod na Aangat sa Bayan (Siklab) filed a complaint against him before the Department of Justice.

DOJ Undersecretary Jose C. Calida endorsed the complaint to the NBI. The Bureau's Criminal Intelligence Division conducted a surveillance operation and confirmed the complaints.

NBI agents then secured a search warrant from Judge Apolinario D. Bruzelas Jr. of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 93.

On October 24, NBI agents raided the Sunny Publishing House office in Quezon City.

The confiscated bundles of "obscene Toro newspapers, nude pictures, photographs, magazines," printing materials, equipment, and paraphernalia.

Wycoco said Mallari was charged before the DOJ with obscene publication or violation of the Revised Penal Code.

Reply to accusations

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE DIRECTOR of the Bureau of Corrections, Col. Ricardo B. Macala (Ret.), has sent us the following letter:

Dear Recah,

This is in reaction to your "Bare Eye" column at Philippine Daily Inquirer last November 27, specifically Item No. 2 where you asked "who's the Bureau of Corrections official whom Mon Tulfo had exposed in his column?"

Quite obviously, our friend Mon Tulfo was referring to me, and I have written him a letter to give my side of the issue.

Your informant from Lipa City is quite right, I do read the gospel in the morning Sunday mass at the Carmelite Chapel in Lipa, but I fail to see how I owe it to the nuns at Carmel to go on leave "to clear my name," as you claim concerned Lipeños cry.

Nobody had come forward with any evidence of any wrongdoing on my part. The so-called "very reliable source inside NBP" that Mon Tulfo referred should come out in the open and file charges if he has any evidence against me.

As for the "concerned Lipeños" who cry that I should take a leave of absence to clear my name, what are they really concerned about? As your friend and "kababayan," I can swear to you that there is no truth to the accusations made by Mon Tulfo's "very reliable source inside NBP."

***

Let me enumerate to you the various points I raised in my letter to Mon.

1. I have never denied that cell phones, alcoholic beverages and yes, even drugs have been discovered inside the prison compound, but these were immediately confiscated and the guilty parties punished.

2. More strict measures have been undertaken to minimize if not totally eliminate the smuggling into the NBP of these prohibited items.

3. The NBP is under the direct supervision and control of the NBP Superintendent. This is true in all the seven prison and penal farms under the Bureau of Corrections. I exercise overall all control over them.

4. I categorically deny that my relatives are behind the irregularities at NBP. The engineer son of mine you referred to is connected with the Manila City Engineers Office as a Building Inspector. One son-in-law is employed at the Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems (COSLAP). The only son-in-law with the NBP acts as my confidential assistant who was in fact responsible for the confiscation of smuggled drugs, liquor and cell phones. A job like that requires a person that enjoys my full confidence.

5. As for my qualification for the job, it is true that I am a retired policeman (rank of Senior Superintendent or Colonel) and I am very proud of it, having been Chief of Police of Batangas City, Lucena City, Lipa and the towns of Lucban, Sariaya and Tiaong all in Quezon. I was also Warden of Batangas City Provincial Jail. I was one of the Ten Outstanding Policemen Awardee of Philippine Jaycees.

I have been fighting the drug menace throughout my career, having been organizer and adviser of the Baranggay Community against Drug Abuse (BARCADA) in Lucena City; Educate and Save People Against Drug Abuse (ESPADA) in Sariaya, Quezon; Citizen Crime Watch (Lipa City Chapter); Kilusan sa Kinabukasan ng Kabataan ng Lipa City and other anti-drug organizations.

I want to assure you that I am not capable of the things I am being accused of especially now that I am at the twilight of my career.

It is not important whether you print this or not. What is important is that you believe me as a friend and a "kababayan."

Street vending legit in Manila

By Jerome Aning

Sidewalk vending will remain a legitimate venture on Manila's streets but it will be organized and strictly regulated.

Mayor Lito Atienza made this pronouncement as he opened a summit of the city's street vendors at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila yesterday morning.

Atienza said his administration would continue implementing organized vending as parts of his development efforts under the Buhayin ang Maynila urban renewal program.

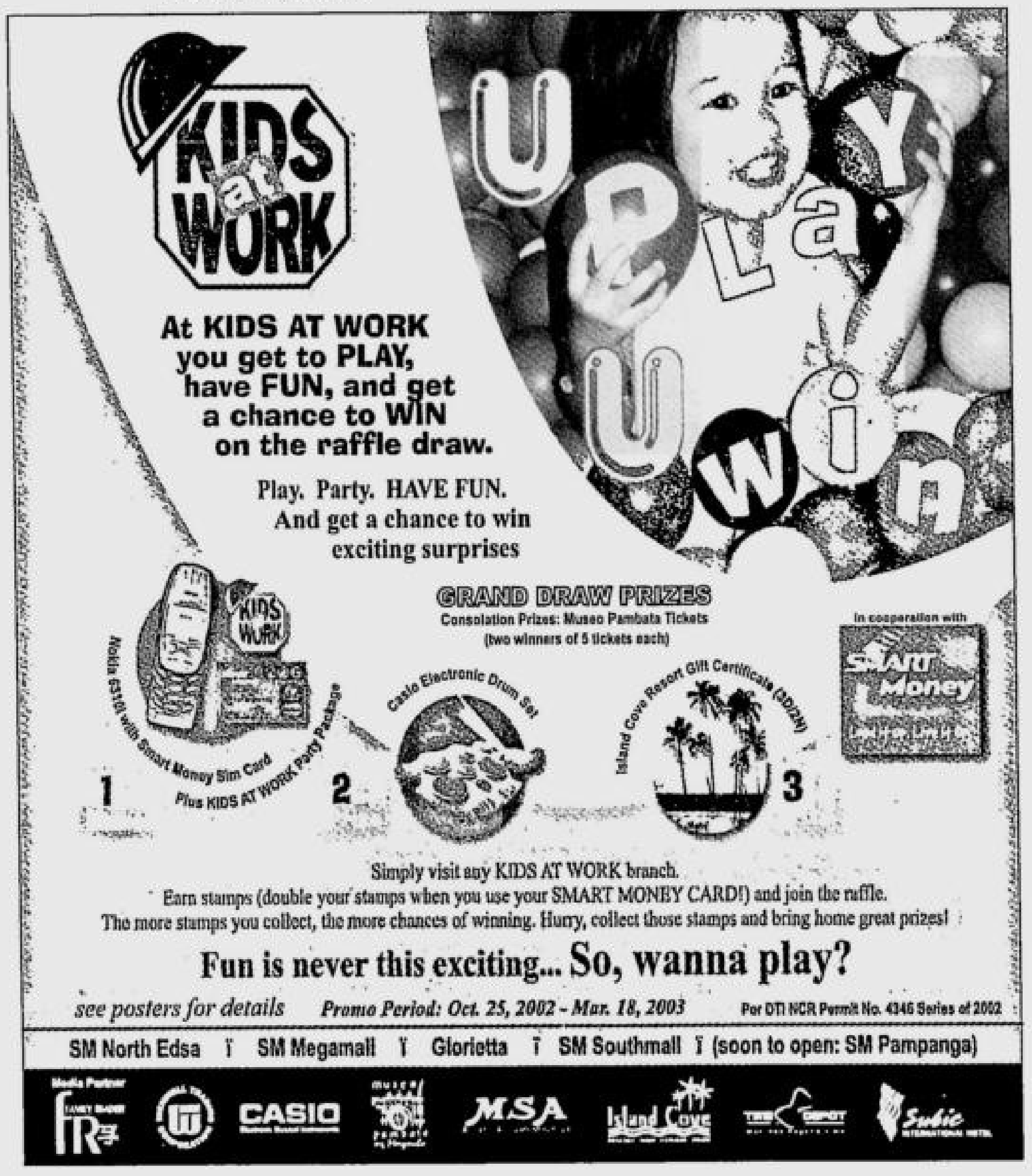
Among the "working policies" laid down by the mayor was the limiting of vending on sidewalks and side streets, with appropriate permits issued and paid for.

"No vending will be allowed along major thoroughfares; vendors shouldn't leave their goods in their designated vending areas overnight," he added.

Atienza also cited the revenues that would go to the city government's coffers once the organized vending program is fully in place.

Organized vending would also get rid of illegal practices such as the collection of tong (extort money) from vendors by corrupt lawmen and syndicates.

The mayor seeks to emulate the organized vending system being implemented in Asian cities such as Singapore, Hongkong, Taipei, Seoul and Bangkok.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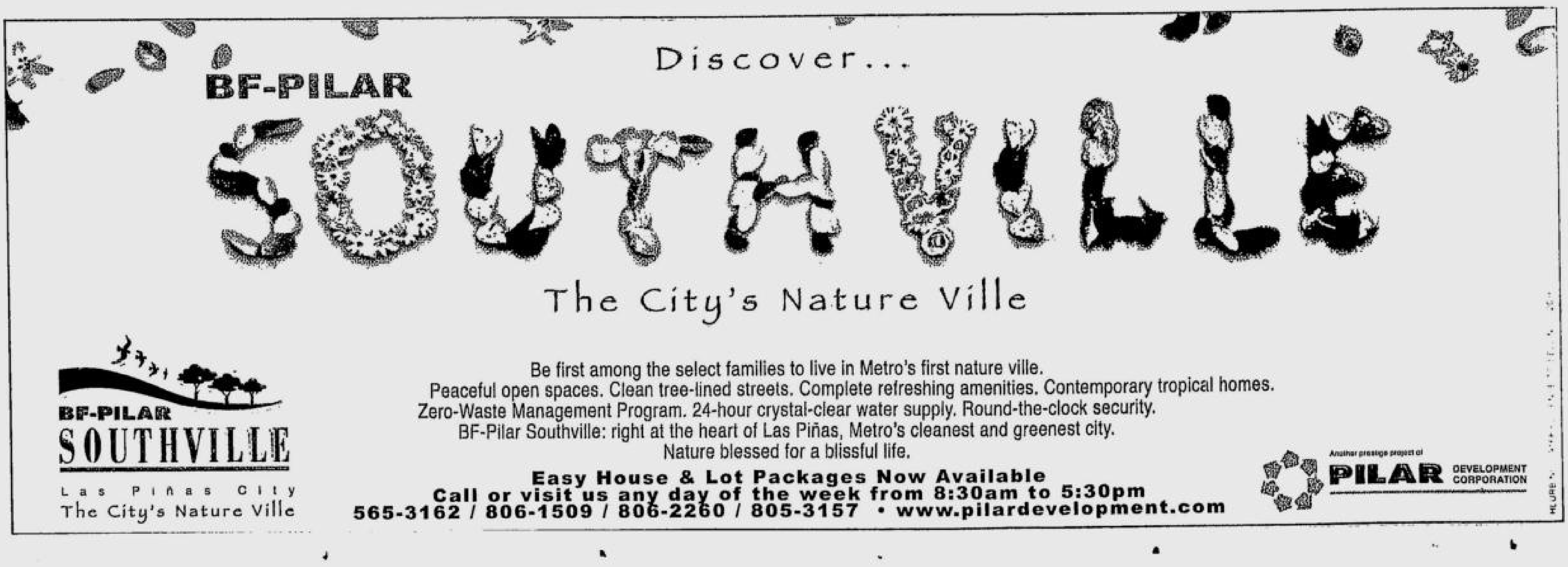
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Cathedral killer a marked man, policemen say

By Philip Tubeza

"A MARKED man" was how police described the remaining suspect in the bloody ambush of former Maguindanao board member Jamal Macapeges, 38, and his cousins Arman, 45, and Felix Lidasan, 40, in front of the Manila Cathedral on Monday.

Jamal survived the ambush but Lidasan and Arman died at the hospital.

Suspect Abdul Kamid, alias Joel, 24, is not just being hunted down by policemen. The supporters of the men he and his cousin Usop Kamid attacked are also after him, police said.

"(Abdul) has already been identified, people would want to get back at him," said Detective Steve Casimiro of the Western Police District.

Detective Ed Paterno said they believe that the suspect has gone back to his hometown of Cotabato City.

He said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group has also joined the manhunt.

The gunmen attacked the victims as they were coming out of the Palacio del Gobernador in Intramuros where the Commission on Elections office is located.

Usop was arrested shortly after the attack. He confessed on Tuesday that he and his cousin were promised P50,000 for the hit.

METROBRIEFS

Man jailed for killing cock

ROY BAYOG, 20, yesterday got upset when a fighting cock he was taking care of pecked him ceaselessly in Quezon City. But his troubles did not disappear after he broke the neck of the offending cock. Bayog, 20, of Novaliches, Quezon City, found himself behind bars after his employer Guillermo Go caught him trying to escape with the dead cock, an imported "Texas" breed reportedly worth P30,000. PO2 Resty San Pedro of the CPD Lagro station said Go told police that at around 5 a.m. yesterday, he spotted Bayog trying to escape from his farm with the dead fowl. Go immediately cornered Bayog and took him to the police station. Bail has been set at P40,000. *Alcuin Papa*

'Sorry' robbers stab driver

TWO MALE robbers first said sorry to taxi driver Bibiano Jolve, 52, because "they needed money" before they robbed him of his day's earnings and then stabbed him six times. The robbers boarded Jolve's Berani taxi (PYB 866) at the Grand Boulevard Hotel before they robbed him on Pedro Gil St. at around 4 p.m. The robbers also took his wristwatch and P500. The victim was treated at the Ospital ng Manila. *Philip Tubeza*

Guard kills self before GF

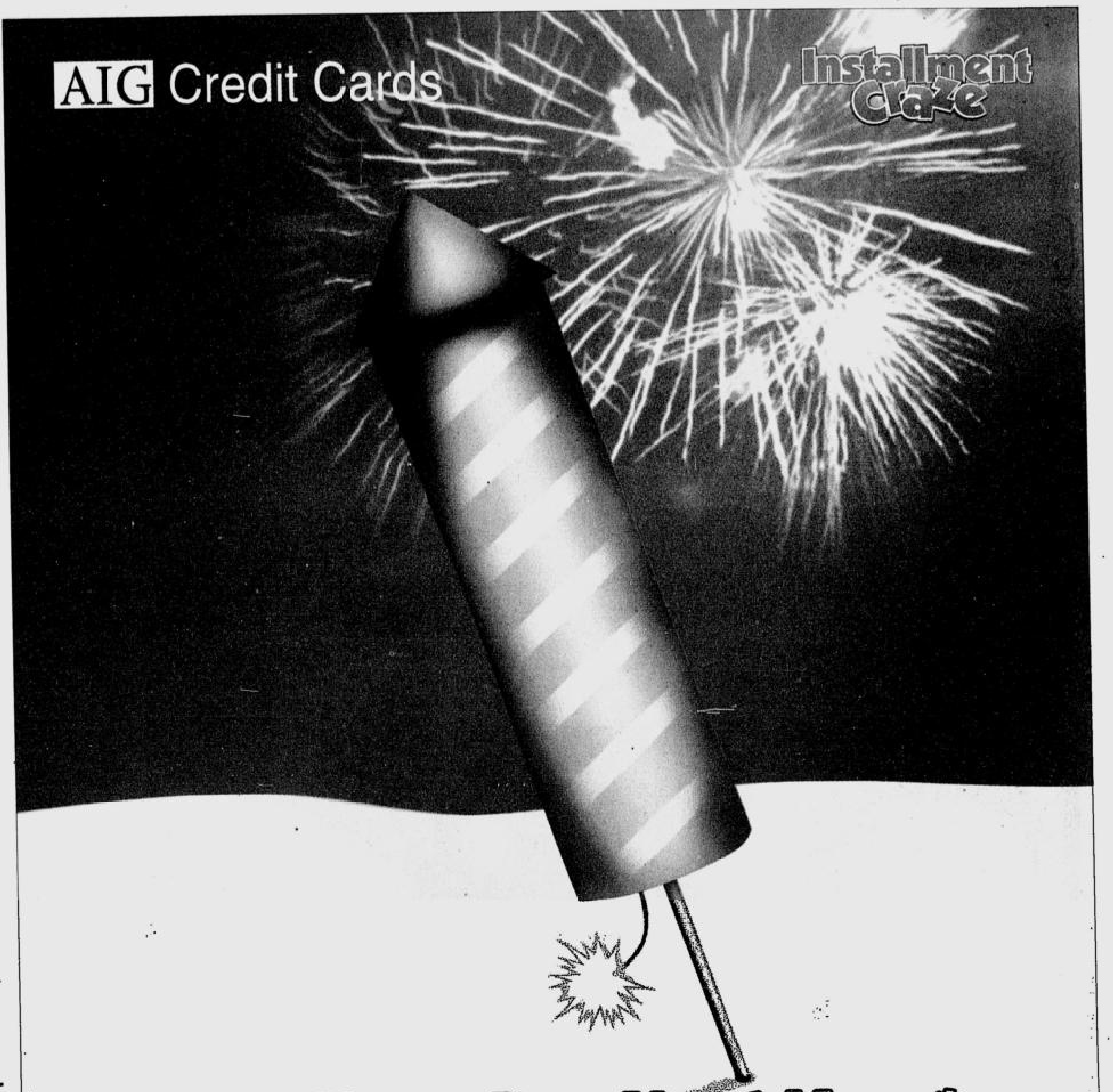
GUARD Salvador Yabao of the Sure Shock Security Agency gave his girlfriend the shock of her life when he killed himself in front of her, police said. Yabao, 19, of Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, died instantly after he pulled out his .38-caliber service firearm, pointed it at his right temple and pulled the trigger at around midnight yesterday in Novaliches. The woman, Peachy Sara, told police that she tried to stop Yabao from pulling the trigger after the two of them had a heated argument. *Alcuin Papa*

Welder slain in Port Area

HOUSEWIFE Mita Olesco was enjoying a conversation with her neighbors and husband Eduardo in front of their house in Manila Tuesday night when a man put an end not just to their talk, but also to her husband's life. The unidentified man shot in the face Eduardo, 47, a welder and resident of Port Area, Manila, said Detective Carol Macawile of the Western Police District. Macawile said the suspect suddenly appeared in front of the couple's house at around 8:45 p m., took out his gun and shot Eduardo at close range. Police described the gunman as about 5-foot-8, slim, and wearing a white shirt, black pants. *Philip Tubeza*

Worker slain in QC

CONSTRUCTION worker Jovito Garner was stabbed dead just as he was about to walk into his house on Luzon Avenue in Quezon City Monday night, police said. Garner, 28, of Luzon Avenue, Quezon City, was stabbed in the neck and died on the spot. Police identified the suspect as a 17-year-old resident of Luzon Avenue, Barangay Old Balara. Police said the youth fled after he killed Garner at around 10:30 p.m. *Alcuin Papa*



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'CLOCKSTOPPERS'

Giving a new angle to time travel

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

I WASN'T supposed to review "Clockstoppers." I braved rush hour traffic (which is more like four hours every day when you think about it) to drive from Malate all the way to The Podium in Ortigas Center, because I read a text message sent to me during the weekend inviting me to a preview of the phenomenal hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," which would be held at the upscale theater on Monday (just to be clear about it, all theaters that don't have tickets for less than a P100, where seats can be reserved, and where they don't allow you to stay after the film for another screening without paying are upscale to me).

But I was so excited to find out why "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" became the latest "Blair Witch Project" (a comparison that is made because it's a low budget film that's unexpectedly grossing like a blockbuster) that I misread the invitation. Yes, it is at the Podium on Monday, but on the 2nd of December, Monday.

What the heck, I thought, I came here to see a movie and by gad, I will see a movie.

There are only two screening rooms at The Podium and since I already saw "Harry Potter," "Clockstoppers" was it.

I saw the film's trailer several times. I know it's from Nickelodeon and its premise obviously has something to do with the protagonists having mastery over time.

There were only three of us for the penultimate screening and not one of us belongs to the intended demographic of the film (the teen audience). That we all stayed on until the end credits were rolling and the lights were on isn't a testament to the film's brilliance.

Okay, I may be speaking for myself here, but really, I couldn't understand how that isn't the same case for the other two adults in the audience.

It's not that adults cannot possibly enjoy a youth-oriented film. Of course, we can. There have been lots of films where the tag "family entertainment" was well-deserved because they did, in fact, entertain every member of the family and not just its young members.

But "Clockstoppers," although somewhat likeable, is not that kind of film. If I were 15 again, it would surely be nice to bring a date to see it.

Okay, reality check: I didn't have any dates back then, perhaps the more reason I would have gone out of my way to see a major babe like Paula Garces in the film.

And then there's the concept of stopping time, which even now I fantasize about.

Physics was brutal for me in high school and any film like "Clockstoppers," where the laws of physics make no sense, would have been a must-see.

Stopping time or traveling through time or doing whatever it is you cannot in reality do with time, is always intriguing. A lot of books, movies, TV shows, cartoons, comic books have capitalized on premises about time manipulation. It's an amazing power that we all want to have.

At least, the film is able to give a new angle to an old fascination. In "Clockstoppers" a scientist named Dr. Earl Dopler (French Stewart from the defunct TV sitcom "Third Rock From the Sun") invents a wristwatch that allows those who wear it (and whatever they touch) to move so fast that everything else around them seems to stand still or are in slow motion. This super speedy version of reality is called hypertime and anyone in hypertime is invisible to the naked eye because his or her molecules are moving so fast (or something like that).

The scientific breakthrough is almost perfect if it were not for one glitch: hypertime makes people age so quickly.

Eager to find a solution and under pressure from Henry Gates, the nefarious head of the government think-tank that hired him, Dopler sends a hypertime wristwatch to his old college professor, Dr. George Gibbs, to help him iron out the kinks in the device.

PERFECT SCREEN CHEMISTRY. Major babe Paula Garces and teenage heartthrob Jesse Bradford.

Gibbs' teenage son Zak (Jesse Bradford who has another film coming up, "Swimfan") stumbles across the device while rummaging for things to sell on Ebay and does what any decent teenage boy would do with it: impress a girl, goof off, and give certain bullies some payback time.

Meanwhile, Gates discovers one of his wristwatches is missing and that spells trouble for Zak and his family.

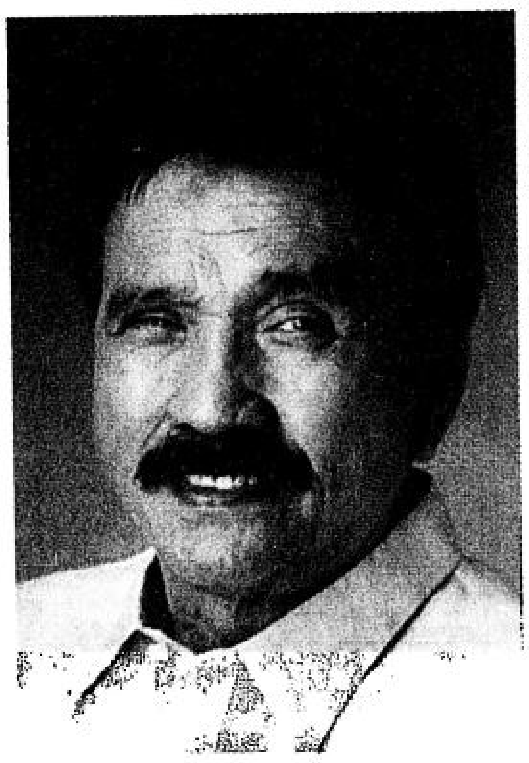
"Clockstoppers" has pretty decent special effects, attractive set pieces and homey production values. Watching it is like watching a sitcom on Nickelodeon.

The film stars two good-looking kids who fit their roles quite naturally and who exude a chemistry perfect for king and queen of the prom. Bradford has the air of another Freddie Prinze Jr. (at the very least) and Garces is more than the average pretty girl with a great body.

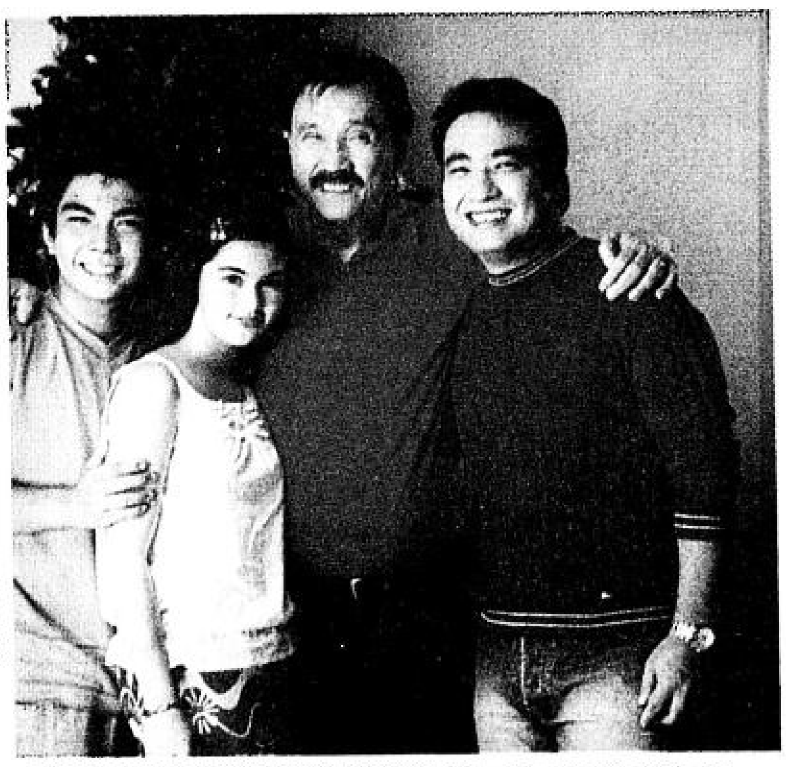
The film is also full of things

GIVING/ A29

Elder Revilla wants to retire from movies, politics



REVILLA. Makes a special cameo appearance in "Ang Agimat."



THREE GENERATIONS OF ACTORS. The elder Revilla with son Bong (right), grandson Jolo, joined by young star Shaina Magdayao.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AT 75, **Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr.** no longer sees himself being active in the movies or even in politics, after he finishes his second term as senator in 2004.

While he has done nearly a hundred films in his illustrious acting career which spans nearly five decades, the elder Revilla expresses his desire to retire from filmmaking.

"I'll just leave it to my sons and grandsons who are now in show biz," the elder Revilla says. "I cannot even run, jump, do gun fights or action scenes like before."

Revilla says he will be content with producing films. His children recently revived Imus Productions, which has released two films this year.

The first production, "Kilabot at Kembot," starred his son, **Bong Revilla Jr.** with **Assunta de Rossi.**

The second, "Ang Galing Galing Mo Babes," topbilled **Albert Martinez** and **Joyce Jimenez.**

Both films turned out to be box office winners, which pleased the elder Revilla no end.

"Bong urged me to produce films again to help the dying movie industry," Revilla grants. "It was also meant to encourage other producers to revive their film outfits.

"True enough, after two films, there were more producers who started making movies. I want to see the local film industry flourish again."

During his prime, Revilla starred, produced and wrote the scripts of many of his films. He started as a romantic leading man in the '50s in Sampaguita Pictures, with the likes of **Luis Gonzales, Gloria Romero, Cesar Ramirez** and **Rebecca del Rio.**

But Revilla went on to become an action superstar best remembered for his characters who possess supernatural powers through an agimat (amulet).

Two of his most memorable action starrers to date are "Nardong Putik" and "Eddie Set," both true-to-life stories of Cavite residents.

"Nardong Putik" is the bio-pic of **Leonardo Menesio**, who died in 1971. Revilla filmed the life story the following year.

"I became strongly identified with Nardong Putik," Revilla says. "Whatever I am now, I owe it to Nardong Putik."

Revilla discloses he wanted to build a mausoleum for Menesio at the Angelus Eternal Gardens in Imus, Cavite (which the Revillas own). But the family of Nardong Putik turned down the actor-politician.

"Eddie Set," meanwhile, became a huge box office hit, which allowed Revilla to build a huge house for his family in Imus, Cavite.

Revilla is proud of his show biz roots, which paved the way for his political victory, when he ran for the senate.

"I'm a product of the movies and the industry can be proud of me," Revilla says. "I was even given the chance to have a second term as a senator. I've been a fearless legislator. I passed on several bills that benefitted the film industry."

When his second term ends in 2004, Revilla says there'll be no more politics for him, although he might aspire for a government position.

Even if he hasn't done a film for more than a decade now, Revilla simply couldn't say no to his son Bong. The latter convinced his dad to make a special cameo appearance in the Imus Productions' action-adventure flick, "Ang Agimat," intended as an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival next month.

Revilla admits he had to get used to facing the cameras again for a movie.

"Nanibago ako," he says. "It's been a long time since I faced the cameras. When I became a senator, I stopped making movies. But I did all my scenes in only one take.

"Bong really wanted me to be in this movie, because he wanted to show the three generations of Revillas for the filmfest entry."

The filming in a cave in Tanay which took an entire day and night, didn't prove to be physically taxing for the veteran actor, who underwent a spinal operation in the United States middle of this year.

"I just had a hard time going up and down the cave because it was stony and slippery," Revilla shares.

In "Ang Agimat," Revilla plays an ermitanyo who passes on the amulet to Bong's son, Jolo Revilla III.

"I didn't have any scenes with Bong, only with Jolo," Revilla informs. "Before the take, Jolo told me he was nervous for me. But I told him, I'm the veteran actor and I'm the one who's supposed to be nervous for him. But our scenes together turned out well."

At the helm of "Ang Agimat" is **Ogie Salvador**, who megged a script written by **Peque Gallaga.**

Budding young actor

FOR SOMEONE with no formidable show biz family background or acting genes, 14-year-old **Juan Miguel "JM" de Guzman** is a genuine talent.

At a young age of six, his inclination toward show biz became apparent when he started appearing in TV commercials, which gave him considerable exposure on the boob tube. To date, JM has done a string of TV ads, that's why he's no stranger to facing the cameras.

In Sharon's Alaska commercial, JM played a blushing son being prodded by his proud mom even when he's with his friends.

In Kraft Miracle Whip, he was the impish brother who inevitably drops a portion of the sandwich spread to the bread of his younger brother who is praying for a "miracle."

In the Quakecake ad, he was the playful kid trying to shoo away a bunch of animated ants, by sipping the fallen cake crumbs meant for the insects.

JM also did TV spots for Del Monte Tomato Sauce, Downy, Pop Cola, Lifebuoy and Milo.

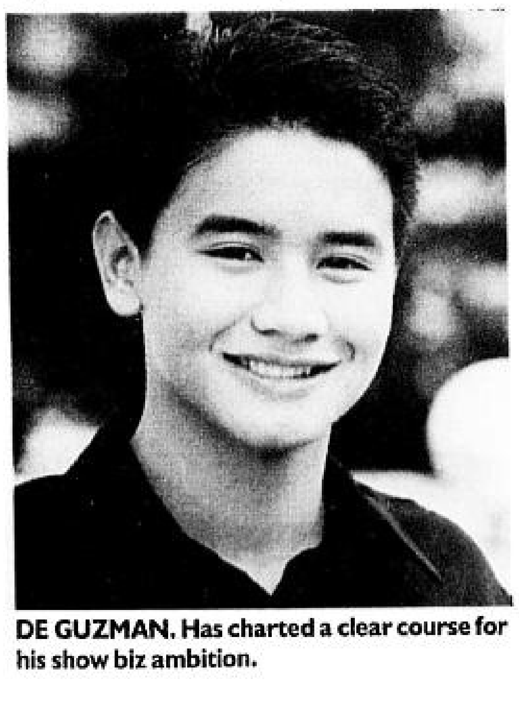
JM's show biz break, however, did not come easily. For years, he went through a seemingly endless routine of VTR castings and TV auditions. Yet, JM was undaunted. He bided his time while waiting for his show biz break.

Last year, he had a regular but brief stint on ABS-CBN's "Ang TV 2," where he became one of the mainstays. His costars included celebrity kids such as **Igi Boy Muhlach** (son of **Janice de Belen** and **Aga Muhlach**), **Kahlil Kaimo** (son of **Mari** and **Enchang Kaimo**), **Alfonso Martinez** (son of **Albert** and **Liezl Martinez**), **Nicole** and **Zia Quizon** (daughters of **Zsa Zsa Padilla** and **Dolphy**).

But JM's patience and perseverance are now paying off. He recently signed a two-year contract with GMA Network's Artists' Center, under the helm of its new director, **Ida Ramos-Henares.**

JM was cast as the young victor Neri in the

ELDER/ A29



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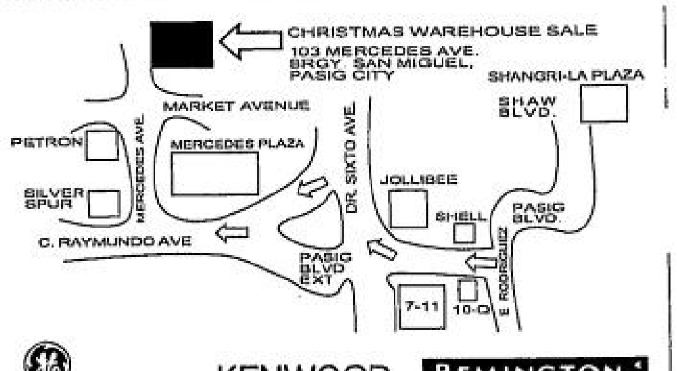


Acclaimed director to helm Film Development Council

By Marinel R. Cruz

CONSIDER this the most complex project multi-awarded filmmaker Laurice Guillen has ever had to direct.

Guillen, director of critically acclaimed films like "Tanging Yaman" and "American Adobo," on Tuesday was appointed chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), an umbrella organization tasked, among other functions, to provide tax incentives to producers of outstanding Filipino films.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will also swear in board members Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Bienvenido Lumbera and Tessie C. Gozon in Malacañang this month, Guillen said.

"I was not really counting on the President's appointment," Guillen said. "She must have considered the recommendations of the members of the FDCP board. For this, I'm very thankful."

Guillen says the new film council aims to promote and support the development of the local film industry by granting tax incentives to producers of films that will receive "favorable" ratings from the newly formed Cinema Regulatory Board (CRB).

Rated "A" films will be entitled to a 100-percent rebate, while rated "B" films will be given a 65-percent rebate.

"The FDCP and the CRB are created with the aim of broadening the kind of films that producers and filmmakers could make," she said.

Republic Act 9167, the bill creating the FDCP and CRB, was signed in to law last June.

Aside from granting amusement tax rebates, the FDCP plans to put up a website that would feature Filipino movies of different periods and genres, says Guillen.

"Although some local film outfits have their own (websites), the Philippines does not have a general website foreign film buffs interested in Filipino films can visit," Guillen explains.

Guillen says the FDCP also plans to increase appreciation of local good-quality films not only through continuous theater and television exposures but also by means of other mediums where Filipino films can be viewed.

GUILLEN

"I dream of being able to watch a classic movie like 'Anak Dalita' just by popping out a VCD from a VCD vendo machine," she shares.

Guillen had been president of the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (FDFPI) from which the new film council was based. The foundation, created under Executive Order No. 811, was abolished to pave the way for the establishment of the FDCP.

"We're building our group again," says Guillen. "The members of the board have not met since the bill was signed into law last June. When we do meet, that is to discuss our new set of rules and regulations."

Unlike the FDCPI, Guillen says the new film council is empowered by the law to collect funds for its various projects not just from cities and municipalities in Metro Manila but also from local government units throughout the country.

Guillen adds that the new law enables the FDCP to grant tax incentives to more producers of A- and B-rated films. Before RA 9167, Guillen's group had been dependent only to funds it had collected from local government units.

"Since our budget came from the LGUs, we couldn't do anything if they insist on recommending only 15 films for tax incentives," the chairman says. "Now there is no more limitations to the number of films to be awarded with amusement tax rebates."

But the council chair is aware that not all are pleased with the signing of the new law. In fact, Former Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) chair Armida Siguion-Reyna, who is a producer and filmmaker herself, has been very vocal about her displeasure toward the bill.

Suguion-Reyna is disappointed because of the deletion of a certain censorship provision.

The ailing movie industry "will not be saved by money alone. What we ought to fight for is freedom of expression," Siguion-Reyna told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But Guillen says that although film is indeed a medium of expression, it is also a form of business. "Giving tax incentives to producers is one way of encouraging them to come up with better-quality films."

Guillen's "Tanging Yaman" was heralded 2000 best picture by several award-giving bodies. Her "American Adobo," a film that chronicles the lives of Filipino immigrants in America, was widely praised.

Guillen has received various citations from prestigious award-giving bodies like the Catholic Mass Media Awards, the Urian Awards and the Metro Manila Film Festival.

With her new job as council chair, does this mean she will be doing fewer movies this time? "Not necessarily. I've just been very selective lately. If there's a project that I think is worth my time, I'd gladly do it."

Giving a new angle to time travel

From page A28

kids can dig (do they still use this term?): great bike stunts, hip clothes, a DJ mixing contest and neat gadgets, like a gun that fires marbles packed with liquid nitrogen.

What's utterly disappointing is how it makes little use of a great premise. Nothing really engaging happens when the characters are in hypertime. Never mind the inconsistencies in the concept (and there are many)—we're all willing to forego logic for the sake of a great fantasy, but it has to be fun.

"Back to the Future" was fun, I bet for all ages, and its science (time travel machine) was much more common and simpler than "Clockstoppers." But we—all three of us inside the theater—like I said, did stay on to finish the film.

It's no "Back to the Future" but "Clockstoppers" at least zips by before boredom settles in.

Elder Revilla wants to retire . . .

From page A28

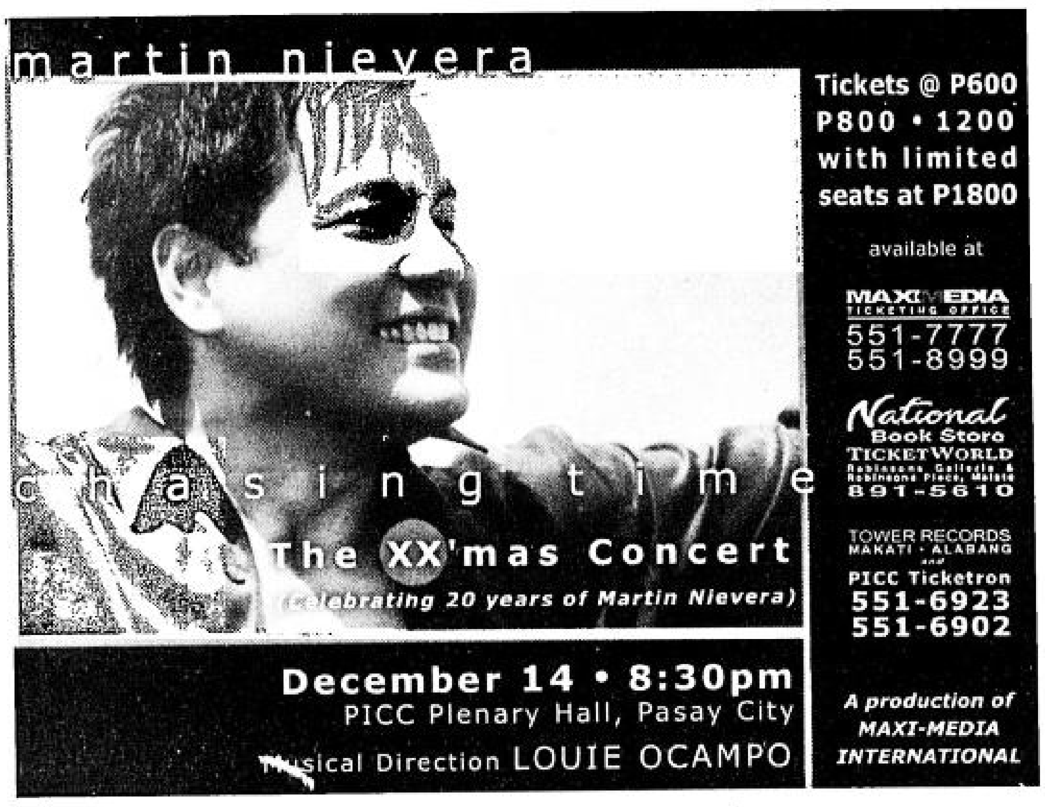
network's new soap series, "Habang Kapiling Ka," and immediately got the nod of directors **Maryo J. de los Reyes** and **Chryss Adalia** for his performance.

JM has also guested in other GMA 7 shows like "Kahit Kailan" and "Kakaba-Kaba."

Last weekend, JM wowed a huge crowd of shoppers and spectators at SM Sucat, where he displayed his singing and rapping talents in a show with fellow GMA 7 contract star **Angel Locsin**, a mainstay of the youth-oriented show, "Click."

JM, who is fondly called "Butik," by his family and close friends, wants to make a name for himself despite the the dog-eat-dog nature of show biz. As it appears, the budding young actor has charted a clear course for his ambition.

With his innate talent and good looks, coupled with his determination and perseverance, JM will most likely earn his own niche in show biz and success will not be far behind.



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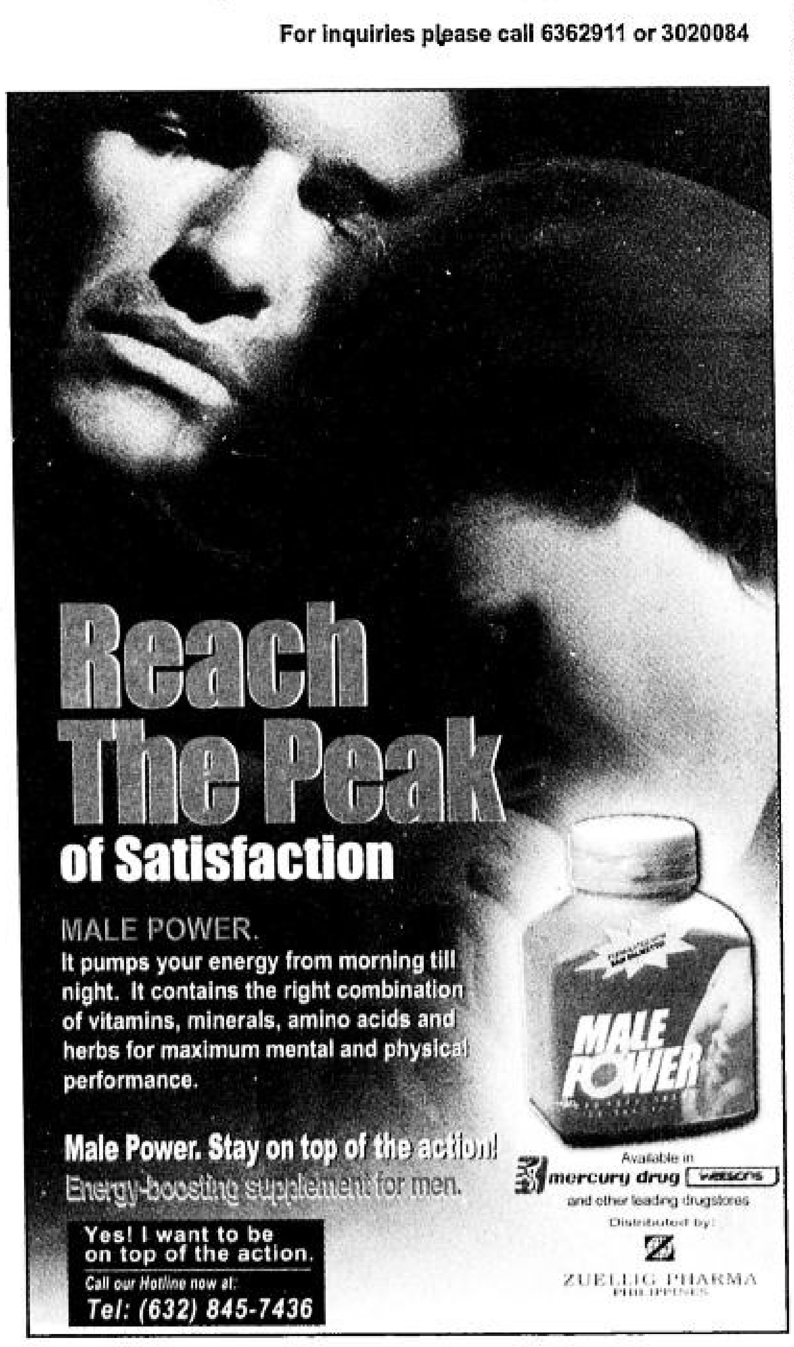

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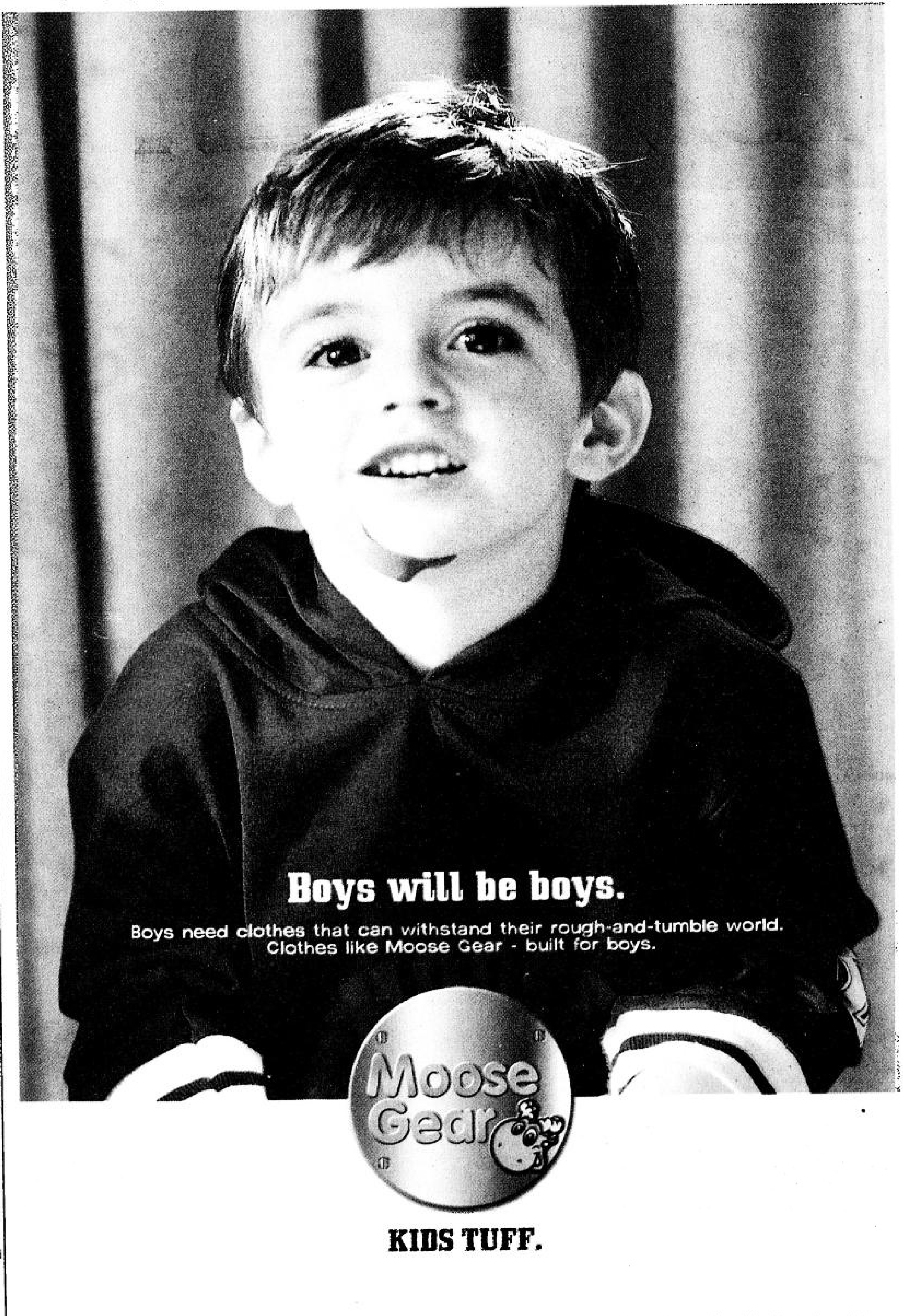

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Most successful child stars remembered

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THROUGH the years, Hollywood movies have showcased literally thousands of child talents, many of whom didn't get to the top, or were quickly forgotten after a few appearances. Here are some of the best of the lot, who went on to flourishing careers as adult performers:

Jackie Cooper was popular in the 1930's. His "cute but tough" image made him an accepted film brat for the "Our Gang" film series.

He was nominated for an Oscar for his performance in "Skippy" (1931), which was directed by his uncle, Norman Taurog. His Jim Hawkins in "Treasure Island" (1934) was memorable.

Deanna Durbin was the recipient of a special Oscar for "bringing to the screen the spirit and personification of youth." After one musical short, she was dropped by MGM for **Judy Garland**. Signed on by Universal, she saved the beleguered studio with her box-office popularity.

Durbin's bell-like soprano singing voice contrasted nicely with Judy Garland's brassier singing style, with Durbin appealing to fans of light musical classics, while Garland clicked with torch-song aficionados.

Michael J. Fox began acting as a juvenile in Canadian television. He moved over to California, USA and successfully starred in the "Family Ties" sitcom. He was only 19 when starred in his first film, "Midnight Madness."

Jodie Foster was pushed into performing by her mother and was already appearing in commercials at age three. At five, she appeared in several TV series.

At 10, she made her film debut in a Disney production. She was only 12 when she impressed viewers as the young prostitute in "Taxi Driver'. Her performance got an Oscar nomination, but stamped her with an "amoral" image that largely prevailed through her other early movies—"Bugsy Malone, The Hotel New Hampshire," etc.

Judy Garland was the daughter of vaudeville performers, and started singing in public when she was only three years old. "The Wizard of Oz" made her a major star. But she paid a big price in terms of a lifelong dependence on pills and alcohol.

Ron Howard is one of the most successful child actors to have established himself as an adult talent. The son of actors, he made his first public appearance at only 18 months.

Two years later, he made his first feature, "Frontier Woman." In the ensuing years, he appeared in more than 50 TV shows, most notably "The Andy Griffith Show" and "Happy Days." He began directing in the early '80s.

Danny Kaye was a stand-up comedian when he was only 13. He was a cabaret performer before he acted in comedy films, creating a frenetically physical style of comedy that was later picked up by Jerry Lewis and **Jim Carrey**.

Jerry Lewis also began performing as a child talent. He sang onstage with his parents at the age of five, and later became a stand-up comic.

Liza Minnelli Judy Garland and director Vincente Minnelli's daughter, made her screen debut at age in the final scene of "In the Good Old Summertime." She had a difficult childhood and, like her mother, had to fight against alcoholism and emotional problems as an adult.

Margaret O'Brien took over from Shirley Temple as America's most popular child star. From the age of four, she was an MGM child talent, and she stood up from the rest. At five, she starred as a London war orphan in "Journey for Margaret," which was conceptualized especially for her.

At seven, she joined **Elizabeth Taylor**, on loan from Fox, in "Jane Eyre." And she was delightful as Judy Garland's younger sister in "Meet Me in St. Louis."

Donald O'Connor was born into a circus family and made his debut in vaudeville before acting in the film "Melody for Two" at age 11. He went to achieving great popularity as a singing and dancing comedian.

Elizabeth Taylor made her screen debut at 10 in "There's One Born Every Minute," and was immediately cast in other films like "Lassie Come Home" and "National Velvet."

Finally, Shirley Temple is regarded as the most popular child star of all. She won a special Oscar at the age of six and was the top box-office star from 1935 and 1938. A multi-talented phenomenon who could sing, act and dance with equal style and verve, no other child talent has equalled her great success.

Martin marks 20th year in showbiz with Christmas concert at PICC

NIEVERA. Refuses to rest on his laurels.

SHOWS

THE YEAR has undoubtedly been a good one for Concert King Martin Nievera, with sold-out shows here and abroad, a new album that turned gold upon its release and commercial endorsements.

However, Martin refuses to rest on his laurels. He seems to overflow with enough creative juices for another exciting production. To mark his 20th anniversary in show business, Martin will perform for his fans and loved ones in "Chasing Time, The Christmas Concert," Dec. 14 at the PICC.

The Aliw Award Hall of Famer has been blessed with more than just luck. Call it destiny of unbelievable proportions. From his first single "Holiday" to his most recent "Chasing Time" album to be released in Asia, it's been wave after wave of hits, be it original or cover versions.

Eighteen albums later, Martin still comes up with fresh and better ways to perfect his craft. Starting with his successful major concert at the Folk Arts Theater in 1983, "Wanted: Martin Live!," the seasoned artist remains a dominant force in the concert arena.

In "Chasing Time: The XX'Mas Concert (Celebrating 20 years of Martin Nievera)," he will sing some of the best-loved Christmas carols and an original composition, "Can't Stop Christmas," which won the best Christmas recording plum in this year's Awit Awards.

Martin will also perform his most memorable original hits and remakes.

It will be a musical journey spanning two decades that will hopefully touch hearts and bring joy this holiday season.

Tickets at P600, P900, P1,200 and with limited seating at P1,800 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches (891-5610), Tower Records Makati and Alabang, PICC Ticketron (551-6923 or 551-6902) and Maxi-Media office (551-8999 or 551-7777).

"Chasing Time" is a production of Maxi-Media International and is presented by Nescafé Classic, Coffeemate, Sunsilk and Samsung, with Beam Toothpaste and Farlin Baby Care Products.

The one-night concert is also brought in part by Solmux, Alberto Shoes, Don Henrico's, and Cosmetiderm.

Natural Born Klubbers

NATURAL Born Klubbers (NBK) with Vurt Management Inc., bring back superstar DJ and recording artist Paul Van Dyk, who will give another momentous performance to an expected sell-out crowd tonight at the 37th floor, Tower 1 of the Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The first two visits of Van Dyk to Manila were absolutely unforgettable. His first in October 1999 at Fashion Café attracted over 1,500 screaming clobbers.

His second in November 2002 at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater, drew a crowd of over 3,000 people.

The East German born DJ started his career in Berlin in 1991. He has recorded and released three big selling albums.

NBK also announces their Christmas offering featuring DJ Sasha, Dec. 20 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

This will be the much-awaited first visit to the Philippines of the British DJ. For inquiries regarding advance ticket sales and other details regarding the Paul van Dyk and Sasha events, send name and contact details via e-mail to nbk@mvrealbox.com or text 0917-8381727.

Mall tour

SILK female vocalists Coline Hofer, Elaine Tadena and Mae Caragan can well be ramp/commercial models or even movie stars. But their cool voices have placed them in the forefront of the local music scene.

With fellow band member Angier Dayan, Warren de Leon, Ruel de los Santos and Jason Balunes, they have come up with their first album under Sony Music.

The debut single is "Bakit Ngayon Lang," while the second single, "Kakaiba," was released with a music video.

Simultaneous with their bar, mall and provincial tours, Silk performs at SM Cebu today and tomorrow at SM Davao. For details, call 890-8049 or 897-9751.

'Diva 2 Diva'

"DIVA 2 Diva," the much-awaited back-to-back concert of Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla, opens at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) tonight, with another performance tomorrow night.

Kuh is the Pop Diva, a true artist whose passion for excellence is well-known in local music circles.

Zsa Zsa, the Divine Diva, is a TV, concert and recording star in her own right.

Put the two together, throw in lavish sets, fabulous costumes, stylish production numbers, state-of-the-art sounds and lights, and a stellar creative team in Leo Rialp (director), Louie Ocampo (musical director), Floy Quintos (scriptwriter), Salvador "Badong" Bernal, Rajo Laurel and Edwin Uy (fashion designers), and you get the one concert this season you wouldn't want to miss.

"Diva 2 Diva" is presented by Mossimo, with sponsors Nestle Kit Kat, Aqua Best, Swifts and radio partners Wave 89.1, 103.5 K-Lite, 99.5 RT, Citylite 88.3, 105.1 Crossover and Magic 89.9.

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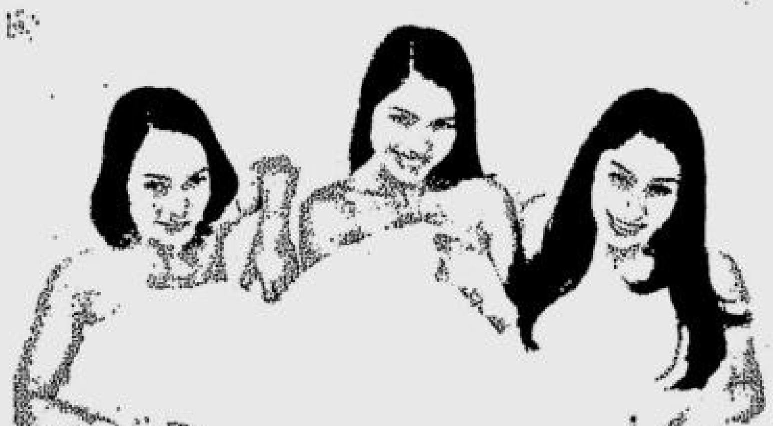
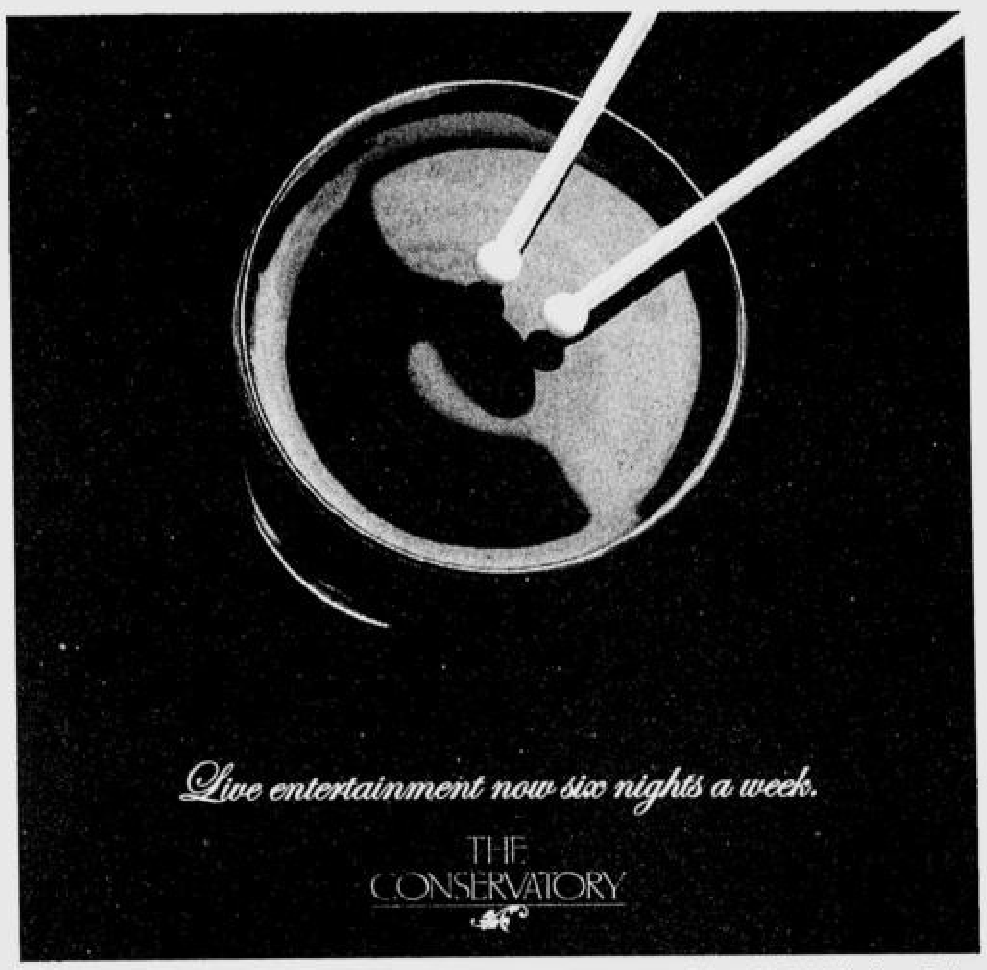


SILK. Comes out with debut album.



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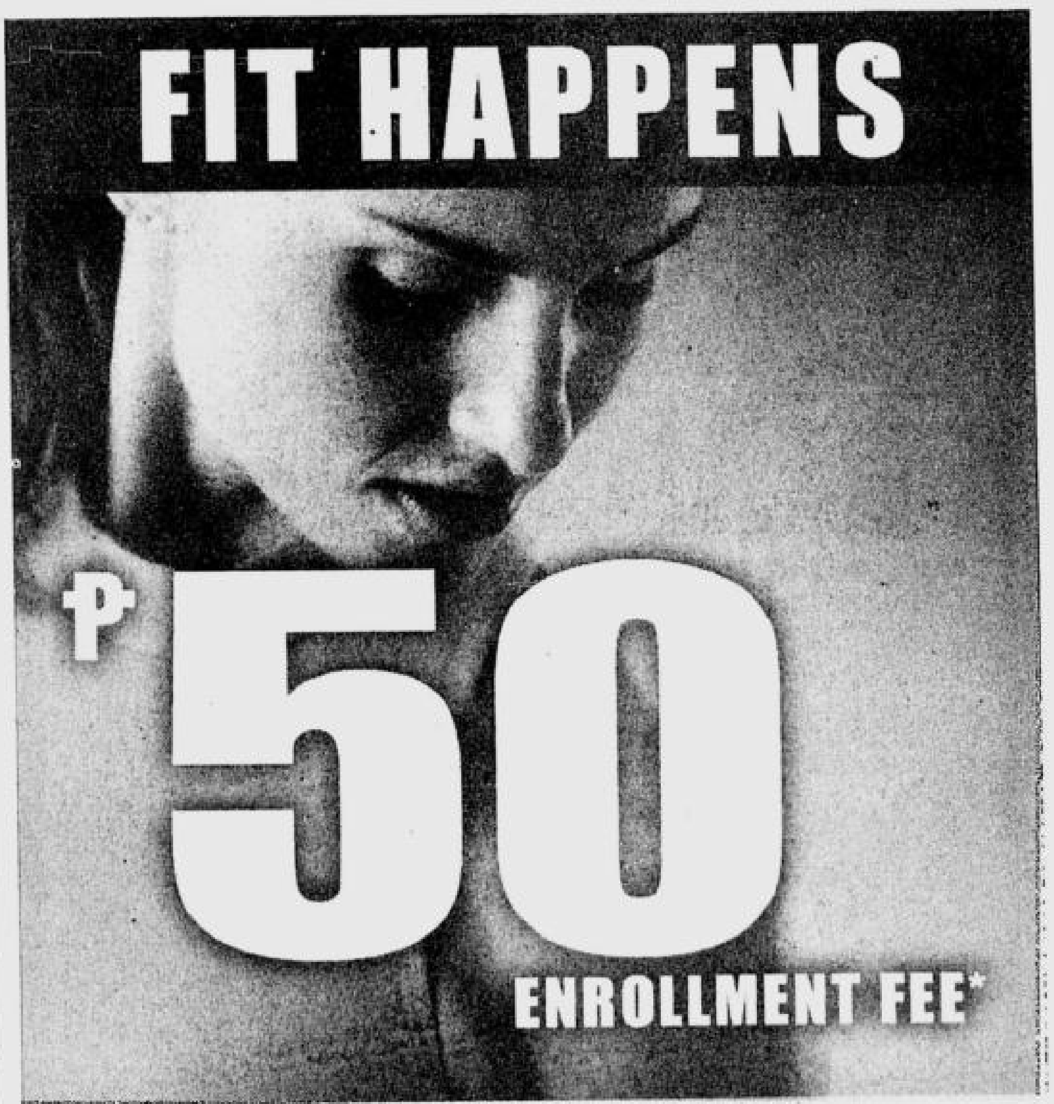

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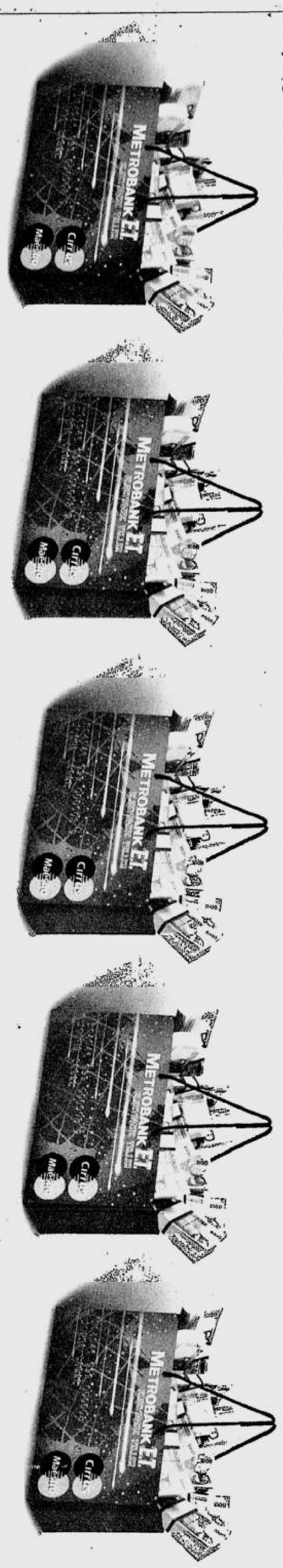

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Nic Cage divorces Lisa Marie Presley after only three months

OSCAR-WINNING actor Nicolas Cage has filed for divorce from second wife, Lisa Marie Presley, after just three months marriage in a short-lived union even by Hollywood standards.

The 38-year-old star of "Leaving Las Vegas" and "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," cited irreconcilable differences with the only child of Elvis Presley in divorce papers filed in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Presley issued a statement saying the marriage was doomed from the start.

Cage and Presley were married in a secret ceremony in Hawaii in August, cementing an 18-month on-off romance between two of the more eccentric figures in show business.

Cage declined to comment on the reasons for the divorce.

"I did not talk about the marriage and I am not going to talk about the divorce," he said in a brief statement.

Presley said: "I'm sad about this but we shouldn't have been married in the first place. It was a big mistake," she said in a statement.

It was the third marriage for Presley, 34, a budding singer who was married to superstar Michael Jackson for less than two years and who previously had two children with musician Danny Keogh.

Cage, who once ate a live cockroach for the movie "Vampire's Kiss," is a big Elvis fan. He recorded the Elvis hit "Love Me Tender" for the soundtrack of the 1990 movie "Wild at Heart" and reportedly has a voicemail message using his Elvis voice.

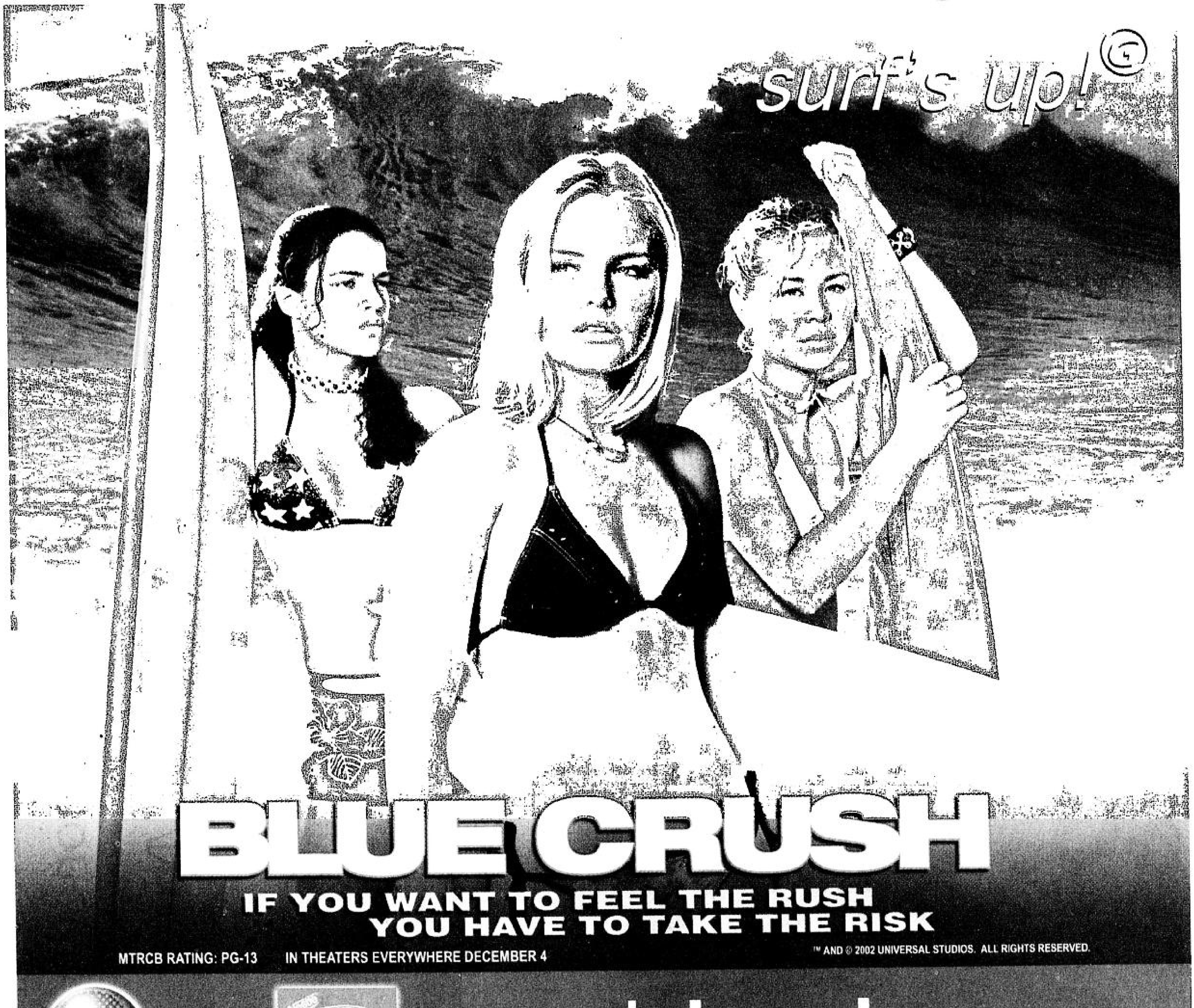
He impersonated Elvis in a scene from the 1992 movie "Honeymoon in Vegas" and his marriage to Lisa Marie took place on the eve of the 25th anniversary of Elvis's death.

Cage, known for his edgy, risky screen characters, split from actress Patricia Arquette in May last year after a six- year marriage. He has a son with model Kristina Fulton.

Cage and Presley's relationship was known to be stormy, and tabloid newspapers reported blazing arguments between the pair a few weeks ago.

They began dating in early 2001 but announced they had parted ways in January 2002. But by June they emerged as a couple again, appearing together at the premiere of Cage's war movie "Windtalkers." *Reuters*

NICOLAS Cage and Lisa Marie Presley at the Egyptian theater for the sneak preview of the film "Adaptation." AFP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November inflation seen at 2.5% as prices stabilize

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate for November is not likely to exceed the 2.7 percent recorded in October due to stabilizing commodity prices, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday.

Canlas said during an economic briefing that the country's inflation rate, which measures increases in the prices of basic goods and services, would likely be in the range of 2.5-2.7 percent for November.

"This is due to stable food prices and there are no further shocks from energy prices," he said.

In October, the inflation rate eased to 2.7 percent from 2.9 percent in September as stable food prices brought by the good weather had offset some upswing in the prices of basic utilities and services. The harvest season for rice in many regions also ensured a bountiful supply of the major staple.

Canlas said the government's macroeconomic policies have helped sustain the downtrend of both inflation and interest rates despite rising fuel prices.

He said reduced tariff rates, timely management of rice stocks, policies to reduce electricity prices and sound monetary policy all helped temper the upsurge in consumer prices.

"Moving forward, sustained growth of personal consumption spending, replenishment of reduced inventory levels and continuing growth of the country's external trade partners will maintain the economic growth momentum," Canlas said.

But some analysts said inflation might have already hit the bottom in October as heightened consumer spending during the Christmas season would usually drive up consumer prices in the last months of the year.

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Total suspended particles	• Annual standards are exceeded at 70 percent (22 out of 32) of the monitoring sites. • Metro Manila has the worst readings. •Number of days on which standards are exceeded is on the decline (24-hour guideline exceeded 50 percent of the days; down from 90 percent of the days monitored).	●
PM10	• PM10 monitoring is limited and needs to be exceeded for health impact assessment. • Limited monitoring in Metro Manila shows very high readings.	●
Carbon monoxide	•Eight-hour standard exceeded in Metro Manila	◌
Ozone	•One-hour standard exceeded in seven out of eight months in 2001-2002 in Metro Manila	○
Lead	•Ambient levels are down due to the elimination of lead in gasoline since January 2001.	○
Sources		
Transport	• Vehicle ownership is rising rapidly (from 1.2 m in 1983 to 3.9 m in 2001). • Diesel vehicles: Over 65 percent of the fleet are high mileage vehicles; suspected of contributing to majority of urban exposure and health impacts. • Motorcycles: 75 are two-stroke engines whose exhaust contains high levels of unburned fuel and lubrication causing PM emissions and HC emissions.	●
Resuspension and construction	• Total contribution is not available and should be quantified. Contribution to PM10 may be small. • Controlling these sources is the most cost-effective way to reduce pollution load and dust.	◌
Waste burning	• Burning of agricultural waste and refuse is widely practiced. It contributes significantly to particulate matter and should be quantified.	○
Indoor air pollution	• An emerging problem in Metro Manila	◌
Industry and power	• Not a major source in Metro Manila or across the Philippines for urban air pollution but has localized impacts and needs to be controlled.	○
Responses		
Analysis and actions	• Lack of data and systematic analyses are major impediments toward the formulation of effective action plans and their implentation.	●
Inter-agency cooperation	• Air quality management requires all agencies to cooperate, which has not been easy across sectors and govt. departments.	●
Enforcement and institutional capacity	• Enforcement of legislation and regulations is weak including the recently enacted CAA. • Need to strengthen the institutional capacity to enforce these rules and regulations.	●

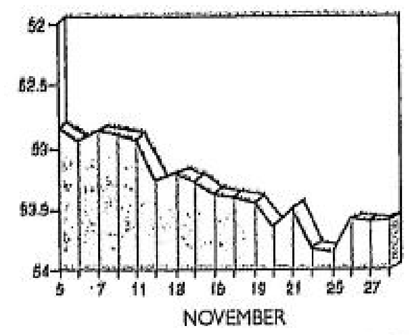
Legend: ● High ◌ Medium ○ Low

SOURCE: WORLD BANK OFFICE, MANILA

The Escaler money trail
COCKTALES/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 28, 2002

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per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 28, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Nov. 28, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.009285	1	53.594
Japan	Yen	0.008256	0.00818	0.4384
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562071	1.5477	82.9474
Hongkong	Dollar	0.129421	0.12823	6.8724
Switzerland	Franc	0.677828	0.671592	35.9933
Canada	Dollar	0.641957	0.636051	34.0885
Singapore	Dollar	0.571801	0.56654	30.3631
Australia	Dollar	0.560465	0.555309	29.7612
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.67722	2.65259	142.1629
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269136	0.26666	14.2914
Brunei	Dollar	0.57096	0.565707	30.3185
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000112	0.006
Thailand	Baht	0.023271	0.023057	1.2357
UAE	Dirham	0.274792	0.272264	14.5917
Euro	Euro	1	0.9908	53.1009
Argentina	Peso	0.290024	0.287356	15.4006
Brazil	REAL	0.281138	0.278552	14.9287
Denmark	Kroner	0.134645	0.133406	7.1498
India	Rupee	0.020953	0.02076	1.1126
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.265609	0.263165	14.1041
Mexico	New Peso	0.099634	0.098717	5.2906
New Zealand	Dollar	0.496476	0.491908	26.3633
Norway	Kroner	0.137329	0.136066	7.2923
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017342	0.017182	0.9209
South Africa	Rand	0.108906	0.107904	5.783
Korea	Won	0.000847	0.000839	0.045
Sweden	Kroner	0.110177	0.109163	5.8505
Syria	Pound	0.019597	0.019417	1.0406
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029111	0.028843	1.5458
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000767	0.00076	0.0407

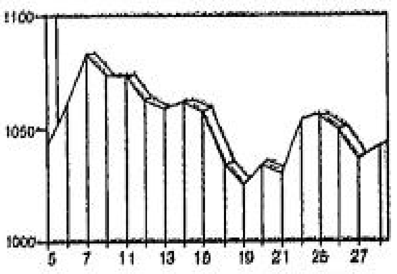
Stocks rise despite slower GDP growth

STOCKS, led by telecoms giant PLDT, rose yesterday despite weaker-than-expected economic growth in the third quarter as players tracked Wall Street's rally, analysts said.

"The market's decline for the past two days was overdone," leading to the rebound, said Rommel Maca

STOCKS/ B4

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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SEC readies fraud charges against MMG Holdings, execs

By Elena R. Torrijos

BAUTISTA

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will file a criminal complaint against MMG International Holdings and the company's officials for alleged fraud and illegal sale of securities.

"It's not mere failure to register securities; it's fraud since they can't pay anymore," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said regarding MMG's operations.

She said the SEC would also look into making permanent the cease-and-desist order issued against the company last April.

SEC compliance and enforcement department director Jose Tomas Syquia said that MMG, similar to other investment scams, had been soliciting investments from the public by offering very high interest rates and had continued its activities even after the CDO was issued.

The SEC has now been receiving numerous complaints about MMG in light of its failure to pay investors the promised principal and interest. MMG's officials include its president, Ervin Mateo, and treasurer Evelyn Mateo.

According to the CDO issued by the Commission in April, the CED found that MMG promised investors a 36 percent annual return for a minimum investment of P50,000.

An MMG marketing sales assistant informed SEC investigators who posed as potential investors that the company had thousands of investors and there were many more still to come.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, securities shall not be sold or offered for sale or distribution without first registering these with the SEC.

SEC officials believed that the operations of MMG were also a Ponzi scheme, which operates under the "rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul" principle. In effect, the investments from new investors are used to pay previous investors. At a certain point, however, the bubble bursts when not enough new investments are attracted to pay out earlier investors.

The SEC, which has issued cease-and-desist orders against several groups allegedly engaged in a Ponzi scheme, is urging the public to report any get-rich-quick scheme that involves shares or investments and to call it to confirm whether a company or individual is properly licensed to conducts its business.

For this purpose, the SEC has established a SCAMS hotline, 725-8260, 725-3418. The government agency's public information and assistance hotline is 725-4118 and email address is mis@sec.gov.ph.

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The Escaler money trail

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ERNEST Escaler issued a $250,000 bank draft payable to banker Ramon Arceo, the brother-in-law of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, out of the controversial Coutts Bank account in Hong Kong, according to a Coutts Bank report now in the hands of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Escaler issued the bank draft on May 23, 2001, the same day that he also remitted $700,000 to an account in the EFG Private Bank branch in Singapore and another $200,000 to his own account at Citibank Manila.

Less than two months later, on July 13, 2001, Escaler closed Coutts Bank account number H013706.

The Coutts Bank account was opened on Nov. 25, 1998, with Escaler using his Philippine passport (ZZ044701) for identification.

According to the Coutts Bank report, the Escaler account received a $1,999,965 remittance from Trade and Commerce Bank of Cayman Islands on Feb. 26, 2001, and another $1,495,000 from Golden Profits Ltd., via Standard Chartered Bank in New York on May 16, 2001.

It was apparently the only two remittances made to the Coutts Bank account.

In addition to three outgoing remittances on May 23, 2001, Escaler earlier, on March 6, 2001 to be exact, remitted $1 million to the same EFG account in Singapore.

It is not clear where the balance of $1.3 million in the Coutts account went before it was closed.

Unlike the 1692-established Coutts Bank, EFG is a relatively newcomer to the private banking game, having been founded only in 1995 by the Geneva-based EFG Bank Group.

According to the grapevine, Escaler resigned last year from being a Coutts Bank "adviser" on the Philippine market, a job which involves identifying and signing on VIP clients, after news of the embarrassing wire transfers leaked out to the press.

The other Escaler

WHILE his older brother was winging his way to Los Angeles, the other Escaler now also very much in the news, Noel, was seen the other night partying with friends at the Café Havana in Malate's Adriatico Circle.

Noel, a Hong Kong-based investment banker, is being required by Pasig Regional Trial Court Judge Isagani Geronimo to appear in his chamber on Dec. 12 for a face-to-face meeting with Escaler's former live-in partner, painter/restaurateur Mariko Jacinto.

Geronimo will try to settle out of court the joint ownership claim filed by Jacinto against Escaler, before the case transmogrify into a long-drawn, costly legal battle.

On record, Jacinto is asking P20 million from Escaler, much higher than the P9 million the two were haggling before the girlfriend was thrown out of the Pacific Plaza Towers penthouse lovenest that Escaler controlled.

As to the two Escalers, it now seems that Noel and Ernest have pretty much divided Manila's 400 along political lines for their private banking services.

Noel, along with principal Rolando Gapud, specializes on the Marcos crowd. Ernest, on the other hand, targets the Edsa I and II VIPs for his account.

Cuisia on Buenaventura

FORMER Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. denied ever having lobbied against Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura from being named Management Man of the Year, as was reported here on Nov. 25.

"In the first place, I am not even a member of the MAP (Management Association of the Philippines) because I resigned from that organization about three years ago and since then I have not participated in any of its function," Cuisia said.

Second, he added, he was not even aware that Buenaventura had been nominated for that honor.

"Nor have I been approached by any member of the selection committee of the MAP (in fact, I do not even know who the members of the committee are) to get my views on his nomination," he said.

"As a responsible journalist, you are expected to check your facts before you make such statements which besmirch the reputation of an individual," said Cuisia, now president/CEO of Philam Life.

"In fairness to the undersigned, I hope you will rectify your statement which has unjustly impugned me."

Cocktales' reply: We stand by our story.

Heard through the grapevine

ERNEST Escaler would most likely proceed to New York from Los Angeles, after quietly leaving Manila the other night.

Since he sold his Upper Eastside condo years ago, the bachelor impresario has been checking in at The Essex House overlooking the South Central Park whenever he is in the Big Apple.

Escaler promised a few friends he would be back in Manila in a week.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Dispute looms on nomination process for PSE directors

By Doris C. Dumlao

ANOTHER squabble is brewing at the newly demutualized Philippine Stock Exchange over the nomination process for the 15 board directors to be elected during its next annual stockholders' meeting in March.

The group of former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto is questioning the "vast powers and discretion" proposed to be given to the nomination and election committee (Nomelec) while the PSE management has maintained that the system is vital to governance reforms.

"We have to look at what is the interest of the PSE. The investing public as well as the listed companies have as much stake in the PSE as the brokers," PSE president Ernest Leung said in a press briefing yesterday. "For these three interests to be decided by just one will be a difficult thing," he said.

In a memorandum to fellow PSE board members, Coyiuto said the Nomelec rules proposed by the PSE corporate secretary to the board would rob PSE stockholders of the sovereign right to nominate and vote for representatives.

Coyiuto lost to fellow broker Vivian Yuchengco as PSE chair during last year's board elections despite his party winning more board seats as most non-broker or independent directors voted in favor of the latter. The non-brokers, who comprise eight of the 15 PSE board seats, were screened by the same Nomelec.

"The Nomelec is chaired by a corporate secretary who is beholden to the appointing authority. Ideally, the chairman and members of the Nomelec should not be an officer of the PSE whose appointment is lodged in the president or the chair in order to maintain objectivity and fairness," Coyiuto said in the memorandum dated Nov. 26.

Under such scheme, Coyiuto lamented that the stockholders would only be allowed to recommend or submit a list of possible candidates to the Nomelec.

"The stockholders have practically been denied of their inherent right to nominate without having to go through the Nomelec process of screening," Coyiuto said.

The proposed rules further state that the Nomelec shall be independent and shall work in consultation with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It shall have at least three voting members, including one non-broker director and one non-voting member.

"How can Nomelec be independent when one of its voting members (non-broker director) could also be a candidate?" Coyiuto said.

He also questioned the proposal to authorize the Nomelec to set additional qualifications and to limit the total number of non-broker nominations to eight. Such powers, he said, would mark the "tyranny of the minority."

Megaworld ISO certification as property developer upgraded

MEGAWORLD Corp., the country's first ISO 9001-certified property developer, has gained further recognition with its recent certification to the current 2000 Series in the areas of planning, design, project development, marketing and customer relations.

Megaworld upgraded its ISO 9001 certification from the 1994 Series to the 2000 Series, the current benchmark for quality management practices worldwide. It did this well before the expiry of the 1994 Series in December 2003, when all companies certified to the 1994 Series should have upgraded to the 2000 Series or risk forfeiting their ISO 9001 certification.

Certification International Philippines (CIP), a certifying body accredited by the Bureau of Product Standards, conferred the certification on Megaworld after almost a year of preparations capped by an audit of the company's various departments. These included the executive committee, corporate management, project planning and design, special projects, project management, contracts and purchasing, quality control and accounts management, finance, marketing, corporate communications and advertising, business development, internal audit, human resources, customer relations, administration and EDP.

"We have taken our total quality management practices to the next level and raised the bar in real estate development by being certified to ISO 9001:2001," said Cirilo Manlangit, senior vice president for corporate management of Megaworld.

The Megaworld Group is considered the country's leading residential developer, with 43 projects completed since its public listing in 1994, including its flagship project Eastwood City, home to the first-ever information technology park and the popular City Walk dining and entertainment hub.

For the current certification, the developer had brought its quality and procedures manual up to date with the requirements of ISO 9001:2000. The manual covers the company's quality policy and objectives and organizational structure as well as the functional and operational objectives, key performance and quality management workflow for each department.

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Smart cuts payphone rates by 81%

By Abigail L. Ho

CELLULAR service provider Smart Communications Inc. will slash call rates on its SmarTalk payphones by as much as 81 percent to a flat P3-per-minute rate starting Dec. 1.

For calls to major landline phones on SmarTalk payphones, users will only have to pay P3 per minute regardless of time and location. Calls to Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies (Paptelcos) landlines, on the other hand, will be charged a uniform P4 a minute.

Current per-minute charges for calls made on SmarTalk payphones are P12 for landlines in Luzon, P14 for those in Visayas and P16 for those in Mindanao.

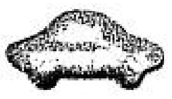
Calls to any cellular phone from any of the 6,000 SmarTalk payphones nationwide are also the lowest in the country at only P8 per minute.

Smart's public access department head Ma. Cristina Mariano said in a statement yesterday that this rate reduction was primarily geared toward people who had neither landline phones nor cellular phones at home.

It was also specially timed for the Christmas season, she said.

"We want to make the SmarTalk GSM (global system for mobile communications) Payphone a payphone of choice. Our payphone offers the lowest cellular rates. SmarTalk is also the only payphone in the country capable of two-way texting," she said.

More than 6,000 SmarTalk payphones can be found in strategic locations all over the Philippines.



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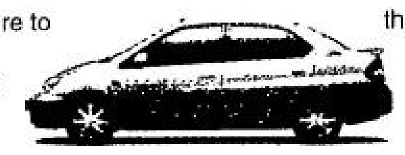

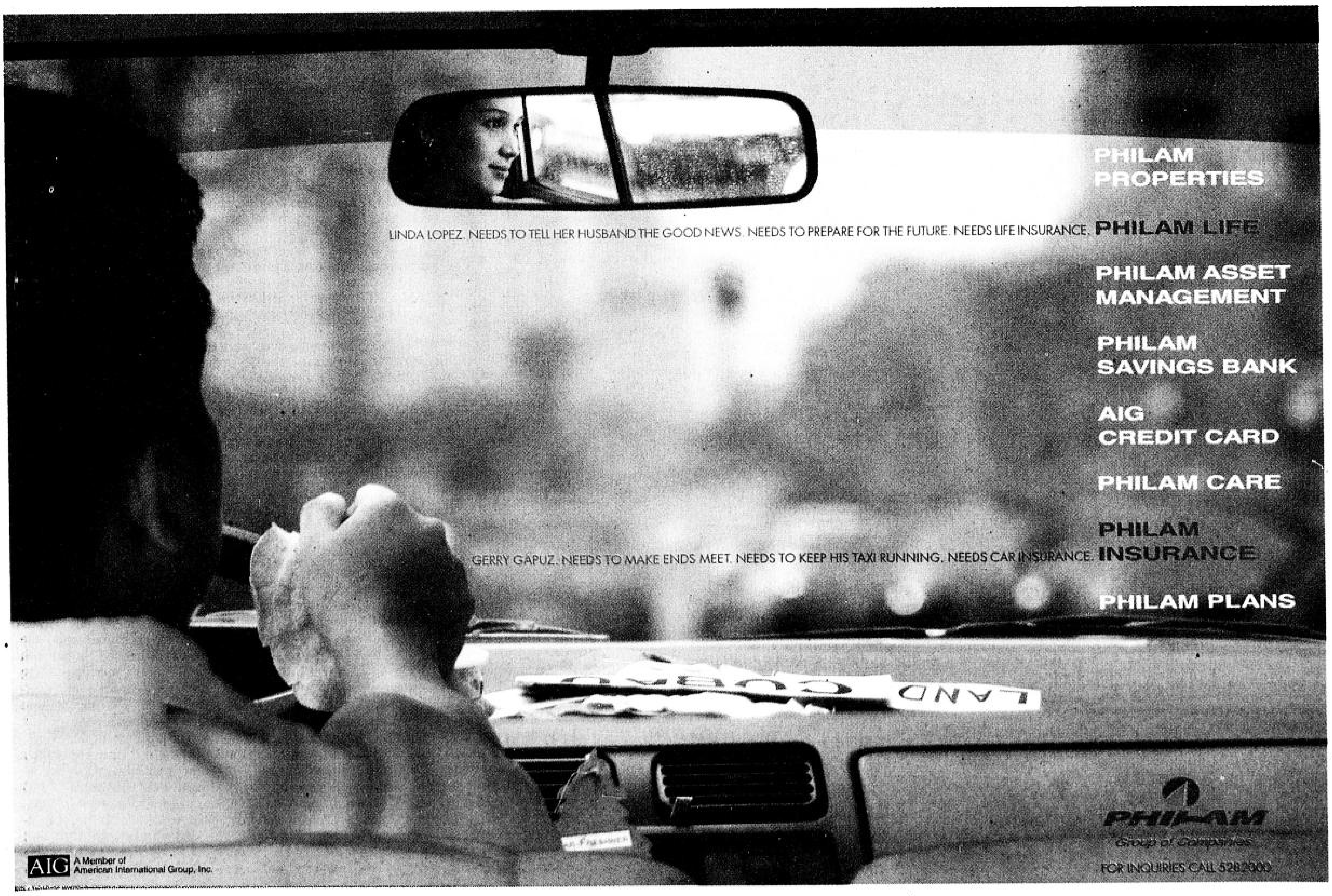

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Nat'l Steel debt agreement seen to trim PNB's NPL ratio

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE National Bank yesterday said that its non-performing loan ratio will fall by 4 percentage points following the signing of a memorandum of agreement to revive National Steel Corp.

As of the third quarter, PNB's NPL ratio stood at 55 percent.

In a statement yesterday, PNB explained that the memorandum of agreement signed by creditors and shareholders at Malacañang earlier this week provided for the adoption of a liquidation plan and the creation of special purpose vehicles that will operate, lease or dispose of National Steel's Iligan plant as an integrated facility.

The SPVs will be owned by both creditors and shareholders—Hottick Investments of Malaysia and the government— under an 80-20 percent equity sharing in favor of the creditors.

The creditors will take 80 percent by converting into equity P16 billion out of National Steel's P18 billion in loans.

For PNB's part, it will convert P4.8 billion out of its P5.6-billion exposure to National Steel.

The rehabilitation of National Steel is expected to bring in far-reaching effects not only in improving the economy of Iligan City where the main plant is located but also in the overall economy of Mindanao.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said it would approve the memorandum of agreement to pave the way for the resumption of National Steel's operations, which stopped in 1999 after the steel firm could not pay its debts.

PNB said that as the biggest creditor of NSC it was primarily responsible for convincing the other creditors to agree to the proposed solution.

"The consequent forging of the agreement among the creditors and the major shareholders of National Steel not only brings new hope for this major Philippine company but also has the added result of bringing down further PNB's non-performing loan ration," the bank said.

Bourse OKs listing of leasing firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved the listing of leasing and financing firm Makati Finance Corp. on its small and medium enterprise board by Jan. 6 next year.

The PSE said in a circular yesterday that MFC would hold its initial public offering of 19.56 common shares or about 26 percent of total stock from Dec. 11 to 18.

These will be sold at a price of P1.38 per share, yielding net proceeds of P23.4 million, half of which will be used to retire debt papers while the remaining half will be used to boost lending activities.

MFC's main loan product, Rx Cashline, accounted for about 90 percent of its total net loan receivables in 2001. This facility caters to medical professionals in the Metro Manila area, although marketing operations have been expanded to the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan.

MFC earlier reduced its offering size due to the sluggish stock market conditions.

There is only one SME listed on the third board of the PSE—software service firm SQL Wizard Inc.

MFC was incorporated in 1966 under the name Makati Investment and Finance Co. It was initially involved in stock dealership functions, extension of credit lines and the acceptance of placements. In the mid-'70s, the company shifted to leasing and financing operations and is currently focused on two main loan products: consumer loans to medical professionals and factoring of receivables.

MFC is 51-percent owned by Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation, an investment house owned by Singaporean and Filipino investors that specializes in money market operations, trading, debt and equity underwriting and mergers and acquisitions.

All existing shareholders have voluntarily agreed not to sell their shares according to the formula prescribed by the PSE. In addition, the company will not issue additional shares within 180 days from listing date.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, November 28, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	8,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	39	39	39	39	171,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26	26	26	26	33,300
First E-Bank Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	31	31	97,500
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	100,000
Philippine National Bank	25	25	24	24	9,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	34,200
Security Bank Corp.	11	11	11	11	3,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1310	1310	1310	890
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	950	950	950	1,270
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.75	15.25	14.75	15.25	11,300
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	1,380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	417.5	430	417.5	425	10,790
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	2,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.016	1,700,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	280	285	280	282.5	274,640
Ivantage Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	98,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	22,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	798,700
Petron Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	749,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	88,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	15,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	72,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34	34	34	34	75,500
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.7	420,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	179,000
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	63.5	64	98,800
Universal Robina Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	11,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.75	517,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	86,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	6,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.115	0.12	13,210,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	40,000
Ionics Inc.	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.97	60,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	.0.45	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	760,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	9,190,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	120,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	70,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	18,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	265,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	431,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	560,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,372,800
Jollibee Warrants	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	85,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.2	5.2	4.2	5.2	24,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	4.9	5	511,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	6,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	880,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	900,000
SM Development Corp..	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	5,355,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	1,260,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	800,000
OIL					
Imperial Res[illegible]	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,600,000
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	499,660	53,738,250.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	141,274,030	160,352,855.00
PRO	15,386,000	31,842,600.00
Mining	37,560,000	608,200.00
OIL	10,640,000	53,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	205,359,690	246,594,905.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	392.63	DOWN 0.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,472.44	UP 12.38
PRO	452.02	UP 2.45
Mining	1,043.68	DOWN 29.63
OIL	1.17	DOWN 0.07
All Shares Index	643.81	UP 1.18
Composite	1,042.66	UP 6.39

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 80; NO. OF TRADES: 1,208

DISCLOSURES

THE LISTING of 3,249 common shares of **Jollibee Foods Corp.** is set on Nov. 29.

* * *

WELLEX Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Nov. 29 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. announced the resignation of Paul Joseph Lawrence as director of the corporation.

* * *

THE BOARD of directors of **Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.** appointed lawyer Ma. Melva E. Valdez as compliance officer effective Jan. 1, 2003.

* * *

THE BOARD of directors of **NexStage Inc.** appointed **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** as its new stock transfer agent.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of directors of **Roxas Holdings Inc.** were Antonio Roxas, Miguel Gaspar, Carlos Dominguez, Ramon del Rosario Jr., Pedro Roxas, Santiago Elizalde and Delfin Lazaro.

* * *

THE BOARD of directors of **RFM Corp.** approved the share purchase agreement between Jose Ma. Concepcion III with **JEG Development Corp.** and **Mai-i Resources Corp.** for the purchase of all the common shares of stock of RFM Corp. in **Philstar.com Inc.** at P0.482781 per share. *Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*

Stocks rise ...

From page B1

pagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"The market sentiment is a bit positive. Investors took the cue from Wall Street," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"The lower-than-expected economic growth will just discourage aggressive buying in the coming days. Expect the market to consolidate with a downward bias," said Vistan, adding he saw the index moving within the 1,020 to 1,080-point range.

The main index closed 6.39 points or 0.62 percent higher at 1,042.66. Turnover rose to P246.7 million from Wednesday's P217.2 million.

In the broader market, losers narrowly beat gainers 21 to 20 and there were 39 stocks unchanged.

The Dow Jones industrial average surged 2.94 percent on Wednesday as US consumer spending and durable goods orders rose in October, while weekly jobless claims fell to their lowest in 21 months, bolstering hopes of a quicker economic recovery. The United States is the Philippines' largest trading partner.

The government said yesterday that the economy grew 3.8 percent year-on-year in the third quarter. But the government stuck to its estimates of a 4- to 4.5-percent expansion for the full year.

Index heavyweight PLDT, the session's most active stock, gained 3.67 percent or P10 to P282.50. *Reuters*

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For registration, details and other inquiries, please call Nhorrie Franco of AIM Policy Center at 750-1010 local 2112 or 751-9182 and 751-9183

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Gov't readies monitoring scheme for cleaner fuel

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday said it was gearing up for the monitoring of petroleum products when stricter rules further lowering the allowable harmful contents of liquid fuels are implemented starting January.

Energy Undersecretary JV Emmanuel de Dios told reporters the DOE would be coordinating with local oil firms on how they would secure compliant products.

De Dios said the DOE would have to know whether the oil companies, specially the refiners, would choose to reexport their inventories or import blending components to meet the new requirements.

The Clean Air Act provides that by January, the aromatic content of unleaded gasoline sold ,in the local market should not be more than 35 percent while benzene should not be more than 2 percent of volume.

The current maximum allowed content of aromatics and benzene are 40 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

De Dios said consumers would have to brace for price increases as the new products would cost more, but he did not say by how much.

"Some gave estimates of between 80 centavos and P1.50 per liter, while others said increases could be as low as 20-40 centavos a liter," he said.

The official added that the amount of price increases could not be predicted as the oil firms "had complete control of pricing."

Government price controls had been removed since the downstream oil industry was deregulated in 1998, he said.

On Monday, the INQUIRER reported that local oil firms would start selling clean fuel starting Jan. 1 despite previous calls for the deferment of the law's 2003·provisions.

Sources said local refiners needed three years to upgrade their facilities, which would need as much as $60 million in investments.

As such, they could only import·on-specification products, import additives to make the local refineries' output cleaner, or do both.

Meanwhile, the New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines said some its members were ready to sell gasoline with less harmful contents by next month.

However, the new players would shoulder the costs in December until new pricing schemes could be determined in January.

Another threat to petroleum prices is the continued tension in the Middle East as some analysts fear that the United States might attack Iraq. This could disrupt oil supplies and trigger a surge in crude prices.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
VARIABLE LIFE	Current Week November 26, 2002	Last Week November 19, 2002
Prulink Bond Fund	1.02870	1.03279
Prulink Managed Fund	1.00366	1.00093

* Note: PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18, 2002

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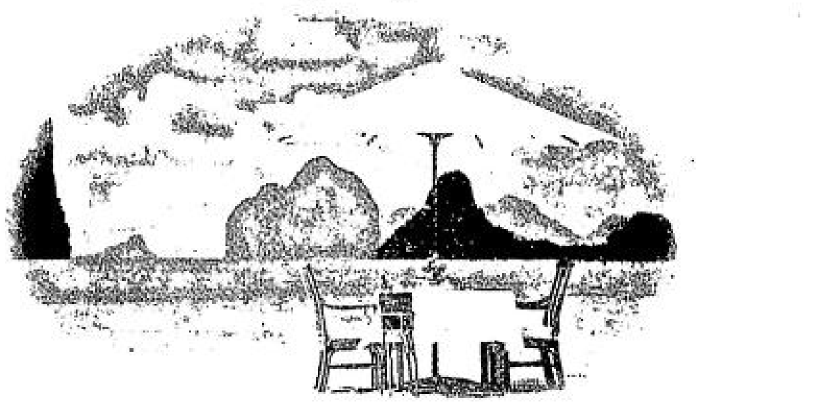
There's been a change in flight plans



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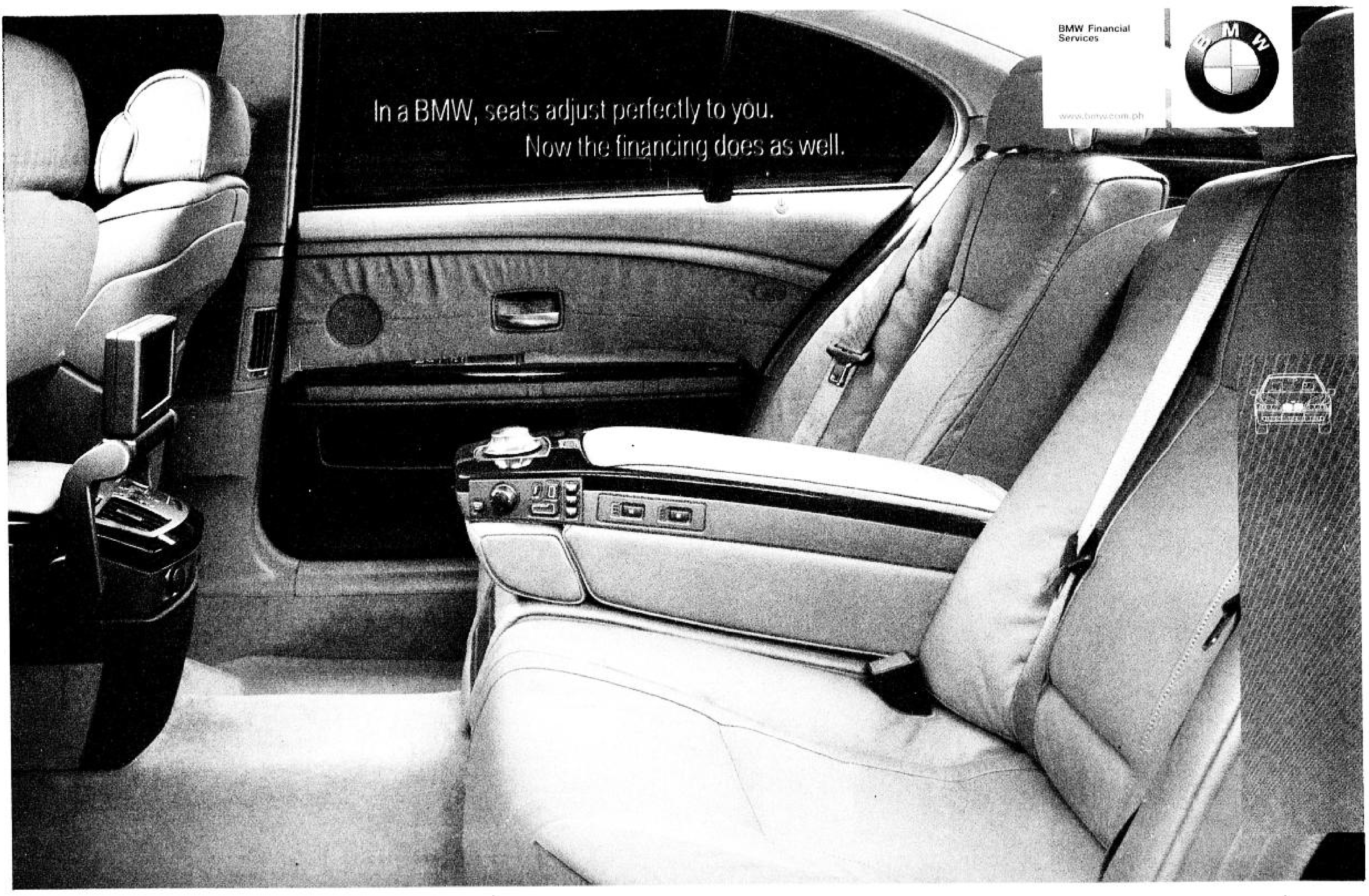
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For more information on how you can avail of BMW Financial Services, visit any of our Authorised BMW Dealers listed below or e-mail us at financial.services@bmw.com.ph

The sample table is to illustrate just one way for you to avail of BMW Flex Finance. Actual downpayment and balloon payments may be higher or lower depending on the monthly installment you choose to make.

BMW 316i: Php 1.575 Million	
Downpayment (25%)	Php 393,750
Monthly payment (for 48 month term)	Php 23,970
Balloon payment	Php 551,250
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Clark reports: Bloated figures and false claims?

By a Disgruntled, Puzzled Clark Investor

TO arrive at a reliable account of mission-critical performance of Clark Development Corp., it is useful to understand the mechanics of investments and employments.

For an investment to become reality, a proponent has to become a locator. To qualify as a locator, the proponent has to have one or more contracts signed by CDC (management, now headed Emmanuel Angeles) and ratified by the CDC board of directors. Board meetings are convened regularly and board members are paid per diem for their attendance. To have a contract signed, proponents have to work with the marketing arm of the CDC management. So, a proponent will approach CDC—CDC seldom approaches anyone, so proponents will generally have to work at getting an appointment with CDC sales—and a sales manager, like Ethel de Guzman, a full attorney by qualification, will attend to your requests.

To get approval for a contract, proponents have to impress CDC with plans for substantial investment and job creations. All proponents will submit business plans involving many phases of implementation, invariably starting off with a tiny initial phase (say $100,000) culminating in a big one for grand finale, usually in the $100-million level. Business plans are not obligatory in legal terms, but there are development schedules, which can be used to terminate a lease contract if the proponent drags its feet too much in putting money on the ground.

MOU

As negotiations sometimes take months and even years, CDC often asks proponents to submit a letter of intent or even sign what CDC calls an MOU (memorandum of understanding). These are non-committal instruments and have no legal bindings to the proponent. Some proponents, large and small, may consent to signing an MOU for a variety of reasons, for example:

- Publicity;
- Tied down CDC on the choice of properties (CDC is morally obligated to "reserve" those properties, while the process is still alive);
- Simply as a favor to the CDC president to make him look good in terms of claiming "investment interest."

An MOU may not even result in a mention at the board, but that's entirely at the discretion of the management (president of CDC), unless a board member chooses to include it in "any other business" item of the agenda. That happens infrequently. Most board members prefer not to expose their "special interests."

Since the present management came on, Angeles has made it a habit of declaring performance against MOUs rather than firm contracts duly ratified by the board. With real contracts, CDC manages to get the press to publish the total (all phases) investment amount, say P43 billion or thereabout. To make that plausible, CDC needs to declare the number of new projects to enter Clark. This is where "small" projects come in handy.

Small projects

Some projects are really tiny, putting it mildly. One can become a locator in Clark and become a number in the "new projects" statistics by renting one 50-square-meter unit in one of the malls and call it an import-export business or whatever.

Putting these two together, CDC can report P43 billion in investment on the back of, say, two projects with an initial first year investment of less than P100 million and 75 new projects, 70 of which are slim.

Bonds, deposits and advance lease payments

It may not take an army of certified public accountants to get an idea of the actual size of the new investments entering Clark. Legitimate contracts are accompanied by things like performance bonds, security deposits and advance lease payments. A tally on these elements of new contracts should provide a fair idea of how much investment activities actually take place on the ground.

Employment

Employment is slightly easy to audit. The important thing here is to segregate "state" employment versus private enterprise/commercial employment. Needless to say, bloating state employment is unlikely to find favor in the minds of those who are concerned with progressive economic development.

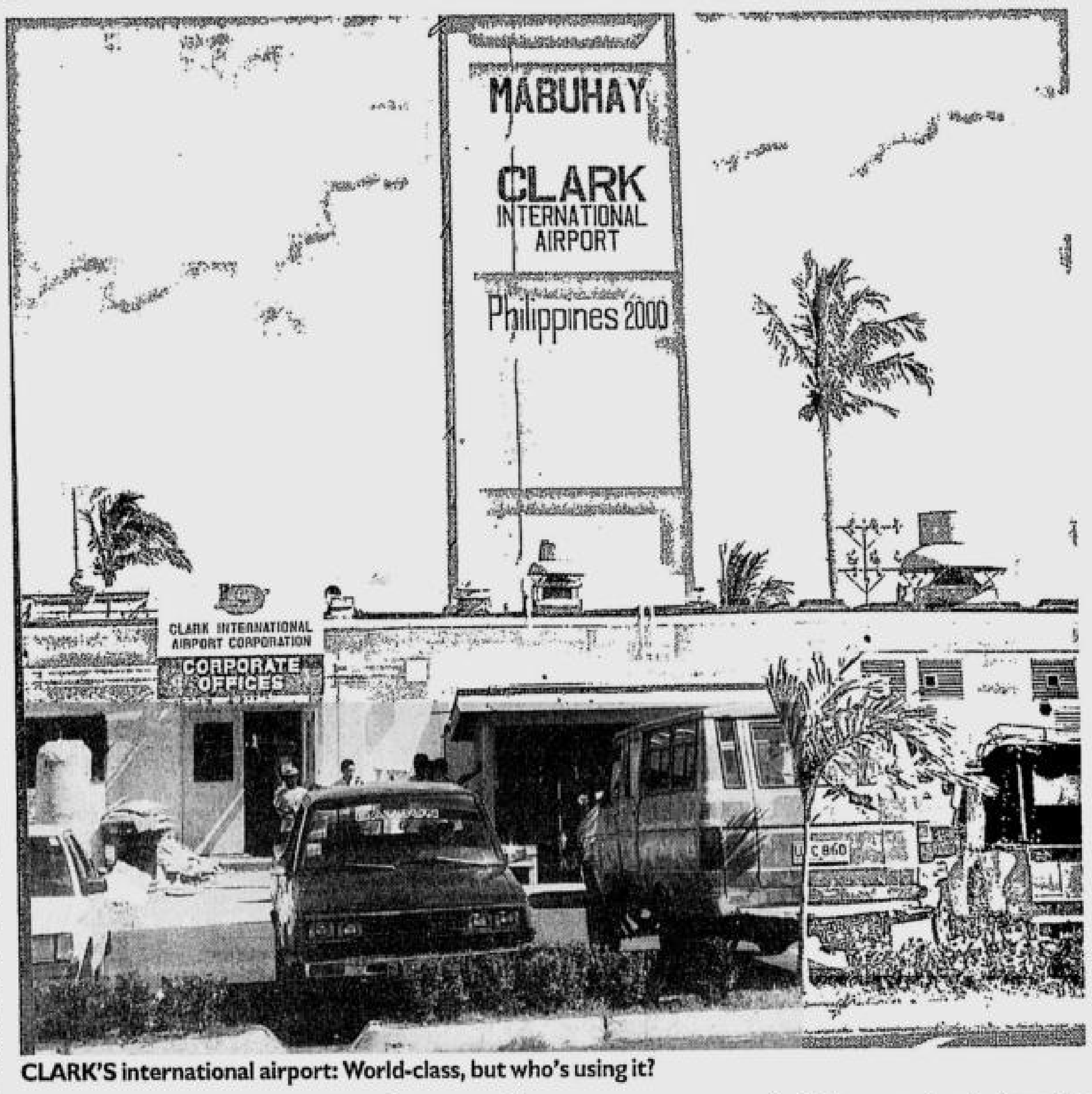
The key question here is growth of commercial employment—employments from locators only, specifically excluding employments in CDC managed facilities such as Mimosa, CDC itself and, of course, other government offices such as customs, immigrations, security, etc.

Land use

As one rides through Clark, it is obvious even to the uninformed eye that there is plenty of undeveloped land, some littered with dilapidated structures. There are famous projects that have a hold on properties in Clark for years without a trace of development, not to mention investment and employment generation. Some household names are:

- Hacienda Golf and Country Club (about 400 hectares);
- Sacobia Homes (about 200-400) hectares);
- Global Realty (about 200-500 hectares); and,
- True North Golf Club (semi-finished as of four years ago)

It'd be interesting to know why these leases were not terminated when CDC is being so tough on legitimate incoming investments. It might also reveal a few things when someone manages to get confirmation on whether these locators have faithfully been paying their lease payments.



CLARK'S international airport: World-class, but who's using it?

Source of income

On the subject of lease payments, it is also interesting to study how the CDC manages to make ends meet. Being a quasi government entity, it should not resist its financial reports. One can already get quite a lot by scratching the surface with date on

- Total monthly lease payments from locators;
- Total direct expenses of CDC;
- Total capital expenditures in the last 12 months

If these don't add up properly, just where do they get funding to pay their bills?

It is important to separate Mimosa from this analysis. Mimosa needs to be tackled in a totally different light.

CDC will continue to invoke a special privilege when questioned on their incompetence and special interests. This privilege goes like this: *"We inherited all these contracts from the previous management."* Ironically, the same people will claim credit for performance of their predecessors. UPS is a classic example. Present management wastes no time to claim credit for that investment when in fact it is undisputable that it was the previous management under the temporary management of Mr. Singson, also chair of BCDA at that time, which pulled it off.

Of course, CDC officials and Dr. Angeles are not the only ones that do this—cover their butts by bloating everything they can get their hands on. Without any accountability, credit of performance is a matter of who grabs the microphone, or at least that's what it sounds like sometimes.

(For obvious reasons, the writer prefers to remain anonymous—Ed.)

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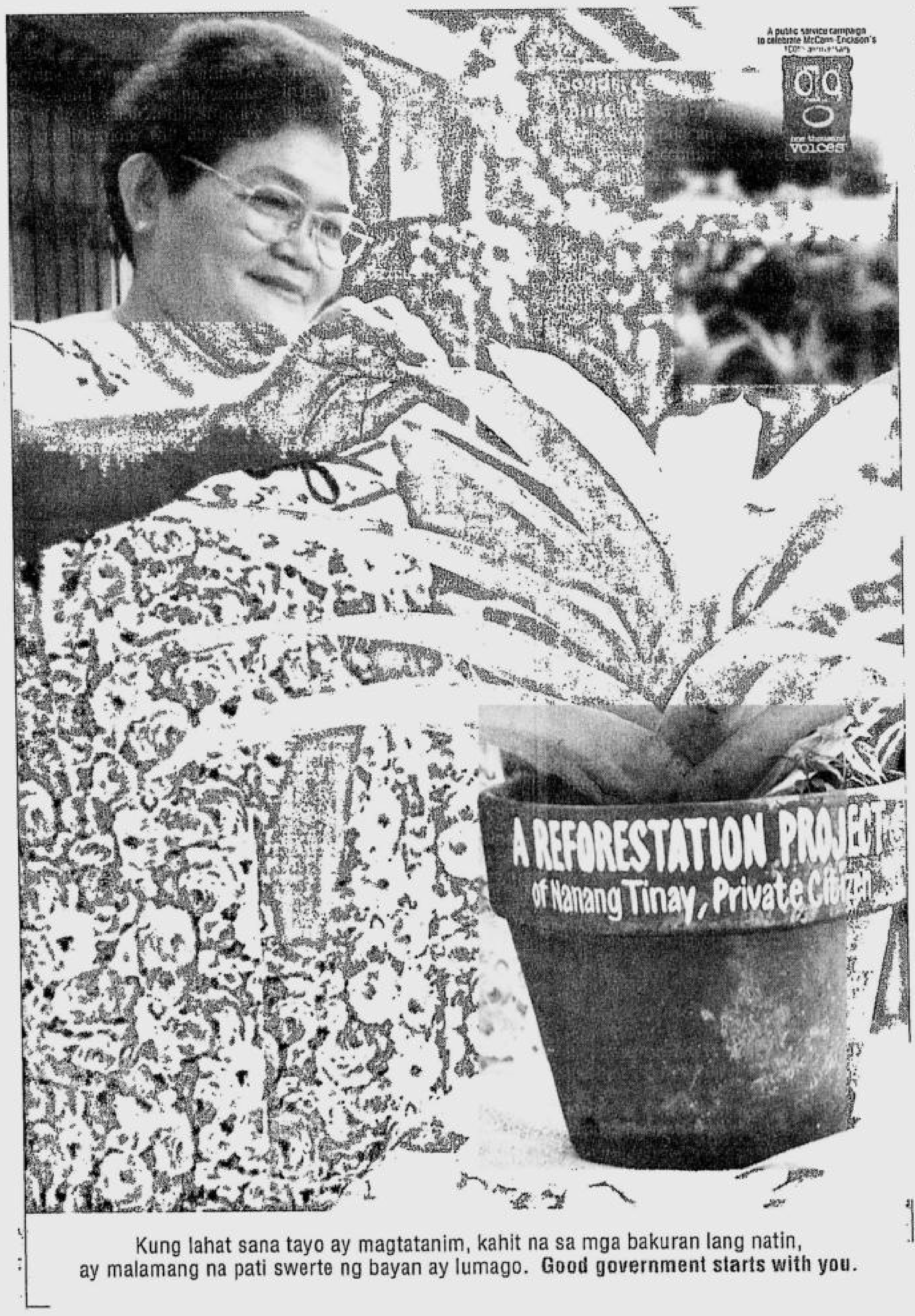
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House consolidates pre-need bills into a single 'well-crafted' measure

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE HOUSE of Representatives has consolidated all measures on the pre-need industry into a single bill that, among others, transfers regulation of the industry to the Insurance Commission from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In an interview, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the consolidated bill appeared to be "well-crafted."

Apart from transferring regulatory responsibility to the Insurance Commission, the consolidated version required pre-need companies to contribute at least 65 percent of their collections or premiums from planholders to a trust fund.

A trust fund is a critical component in the mechanism designed to guarantee the capacity of pre-need companies to meet their future obligations to their stakeholders.

The SEC has placed the trust funds of the pre-need industry at P44 billion, up by P7 billion since six months ago, and has declared that all 46 pre-need companies are solvent, Bautista said.

The trust fund ratio proposed by the House—at 65 percent—was higher than the SEC's minimum level of 51 percent.

The consolidated Pre-need Code also called for pre-need companies to have a minimum paid up capital of P100 million, which the pre-need industry earlier opposed.

As a compromise, the commission has agreed to require pre-need companies that offer one pre-need plan type to meet a lower minimum paid-up capital of P50 million.

Pre-need companies that offer two plans should have at least P75 million in paid-up capital and at least P100 million if they offer three types of plans, according to the SEC's compromise formula.

Bautista said one of the good features of the consolidated Pre-need Code was that it gave the Insurance Commission the flexibility to decide the type of and corresponding amount of assets pre-need companies could invest to cover for the claims of their planholders.

The Insurance Commission has said it is prepared to regulate the pre-need industry, but that it wants to be given more resources and to be exempted from the salary standardization law.

RP third-largest banana exporter

THE PHILIPPINES shipped some 664,344 metric tons of bananas to its markets abroad in the first six months of the year, making the country the world's third-largest banana exporter.

The Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association's report showed that the Philippines had overtaken Colombia and Panama as of June this year, placing the country behind Ecuador and Costa Rica.

Ecuador delivered the largest shipment with 2.198 million metric tons, followed by Costa Rica, with 833,433 metric tons. Colombia was fourth with 653,623 metric tons.

Growers from all over Mindanao earlier adopted 12 resolutions to develop the local banana industry.

One of the resolutions asked the Department of Agriculture, Land Bank of the Philippines and the Quedan Credit Corp. to provide access to small banana growers through innovative schemes like collateral-free financing program.

It also urged the government to increase its budget for research and development.

Flordeliza Lantican, team leader of the national banana strategic master plan, said there was a lack of fund for research and development for the benefit of the banana industry.

"The country is already lagging behind in the allocation for research and development compared with other Asian countries," she said.

The country's closest rivals in terms of banana production are Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

In yet another resolution, the banana growers asked the agriculture department and the Department of Trade and Industry to find ways to enhance market access for fresh and processed bananas in the export market.

The main variety that the group was pushing was the Cardava variety, which is used in the production of banana chips.

To date, Cardava's market remains to be Japan, which is drastically shifting to organically grown crops, and saturating it means a steady supply should be ascertained.

The Banana Industry Council of Southern Mindanao has announced that it is looking at saturating the Cardava market in Japan by contracting small growers in the region.

Vida Doria: Still in style after 31 years

SUCCESS STORY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CLOTHING stores in the Philippines come and go almost as fast as fashion trends, but one store that has remained in style for 31 years is Vida Doria.

Vida Doria was just crowned Binibining Pilipinas Universe in 1971 when she found herself spending a lot of her time manning the Singer sewing machine dealership of her then boyfriend (now husband) Carlito Legaspi in Rustan's Makati and Farmer's Cubao.

The Makati shop that sold sewing machines, sewing supplies and fabric was where they would often meet since most of Doria's fashion shoots and modeling assignments at that time were done in Makati.

While waiting for her husband or supervising the shop when he was away, she made the most of her time by asking the girls to sew dresses for the mannequin at the store using her own designs.

"There was hardly any ready-to-wear dresses at that time, so the clothes on the mannequin got noticed. I then did one rack of clothes using my designs and these were sold, then we did two racks and those were sold too," Doria says.

Sewing to designing

The RTW dresses brought in more customers than the sewing machine equipment that the couple decided to do away with the sewing machine business.

They concentrated instead on the clothes business with just three cutters and two sewers as the first employees.

"I have always been into designing because of my mother. She was a teacher, but she sewed clothes for me and my sisters. When I got older, I designed because I wanted my own kind of clothes," Doria says.

The Farmer's Plaza shop became the first RTW store in 1972, but it was only when a customer said she should put her name on her clothes that the shop became Vida Doria.

"At that time, the shop was called M.I.D.I. because of the dealership. We changed it to Vida Doria because the head of security of Rustan's said the new name would be equivalent to the ringing of cash registers," Doria said.

The name recall definitely helped, she said.

Doria was a household name since the Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant was the only one at that time, and she was named Miss Photogenic when she represented the Philippines to the Miss Universe beauty pageant in Miami, Florida.

Money from hobby

From RTW, Vida Doria got big commissions for wedding dresses and gowns for the entourage. The business became so fast-paced that she thought she owed it to her customers to improve her craft.

"I was already earning money from my hobby so I should be really good at it. So I took up designing, and then I learned to cut and to sew so my workers could not get away with cutting corners," she said.

The big break came when Doria and her husband, whom she married in 1972, went into export in the early 1980s. Doria said their foray into the export business marked a turning point in the business because they were exposed to new technologies, the machines were retooled and the quality of Vida Doria clothes matched those in the world market.

VIDA Doria: At 52, still as stylish as her clothes.

"We went into semi mass production to service the markets in the US and then the overruns were sold in the retail stores," she said.

The Vida Doria stores went through more peaks up to 1997, when there were as many as eight retail stores, and employees went up to over 100.

Crisis years

The Philippines has since experienced economic crises that also affected Vida Doria's operations.

Vida Doria decided to consolidate operations. From eight stores, it now has four. The two in Cebu were closed because these were too far to be managed properly, same with the branches in Alabang and SM Fairview.

"We said to ourselves that we should not have stores that we could not control because one store that is mismanaged would affect everything else," the 52-year-old Doria said.

Proper management of the remaining stores in Glorietta I, SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa and the new factory outlet in Maginhawa St. in UP Village, Quezon City, however, is just part of the reason for the longevity of Vida Doria.

"I think we stayed because we were never too popular because if you become too popular, it is hard to stay on top. We were just there at about seven or eight on a scale of ten," Doria says.

While other stores were going for the latest trends, Vida Doria concentrated on classic, comfortable, romantic and feminine styles. Doria continues to head the design department while her husband oversees all other parts of the business from manufacturing to human resources management and finance.

So much to learn

"I have learned so much from the business over the past 31 years, the kind that you don't get to read in books. This is why I really want to teach, to share what I have learned," Doria says.

And among her valuable lessons for budding businessmen is to not go for the quick profit, share the wealth with the employees, value the customers even if they come in with slippers, remain humble and build a business as an extension of a hobby.

"I also believe in taking care of the home front because if everything is doing good at home, you can go for the heights because the support is there," Doria said.

"I have always believed that no amount of success in career will compensate for failure in the home," Doria added.

Accenture, ePLDT in tie-up

THE MANILA arm of management consultancy firm Accenture has entered into an agreement allowing it to use the facilities of information technology company ePLDT for an outsourced development project.

Using ePLDT's Vitro Competency Center, Accenture is doing some applications testing for a project involving the design, development and implementation of a school administration system.

"Our activities at the Vitro Competency Center are geared towards the completion of applications for our clients. Our expectation is that our use of the Vitro Competency Center will help us make our solutions workable to benefit our end-users," Accenture associate partner Ma. Theresa Yuyek said in a statement yesterday.

The center is a highly functional "staging laboratory" that allows users to conduct product enhancement tests, simulation experiments, pre-launch activities and even pilot tests of new services before actual implementation.

This will, in effect, minimize expenditures for companies as the risk of implementing a system that may contain glitches is minimized or even eliminated.

Abigail L. Ho

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The New Sentra GX.

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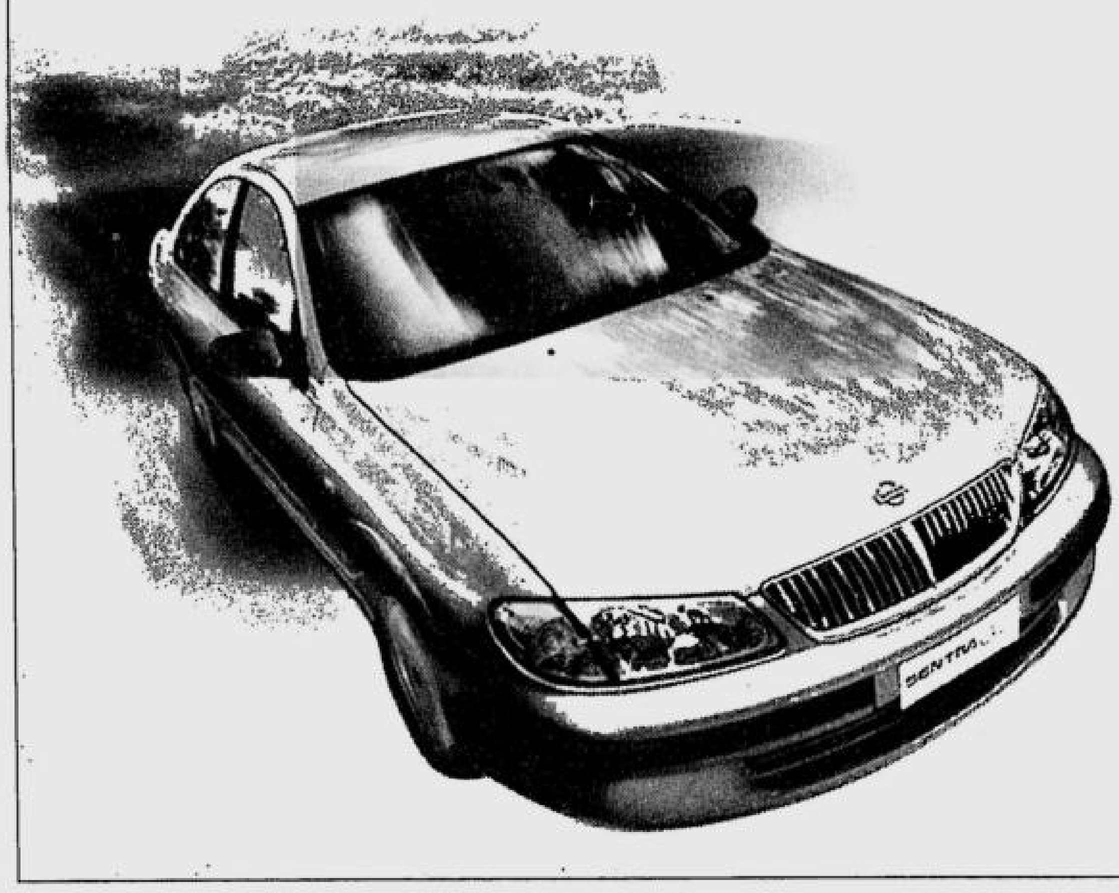

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BUSINESS*Friday*
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Big ideas generate big businesses

By David B. Guerrero
Chair and executive creative director, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega

FOR all the 19th and much of the 20th century, the major problem facing manufacturers was production.

For the makers and sellers of things, the major problem of the 21st century is not underproduction but overproduction

In other words: The consumer is king.

The companies that own the world's top 100 brands on average have 80 percent of their value in "intangible assets."

In other words, only 20 percent of their worth is in things you can touch, see or feel. Like buildings, factories, etc.

After deducting other "intangibles," the average of the total value of these companies devoted to the brand alone is an astonishing 66 percent.

To give some concrete examples from 2001:

Coca-Cola has a stock market value of $113 billion. And a brand value of $69 billion. Ford's total market value is $46 billion and the brand is $30 billion of that. McDonalds could be bought for $35 billion but $25 billion of that would be the brand.

Value of brands

It is clear that the underlying factor behind the huge upsurge in brand activity is the seismic shift in power from companies (who sell things) to consumers (who choose them)

The main weapon in the battle for the consumers' custom is the BRAND.

Faced with a jungle of choices, consumers will return to the brands they trust.

"No advertiser, certainly no brand, can buy their way into the hearts and minds of their customers today. What was once a battle for rating points is now a battle for ideas."

Brand builders

More brand owners will have to become brand builders.

The alternative is a slow death—and in some cases a quick death—as a discounted commodity in an over-supplied, crowded marketplace. Dismissed and disregarded by once-loyal customers.

Ideas add value to brands over time.

Which ideas work best?

How do we measure valuable brand ideas?

A Leo Burnett study shows that 82 percent of the most awarded ads in the world in 1999, 2000 and 2001 were associated with business success.

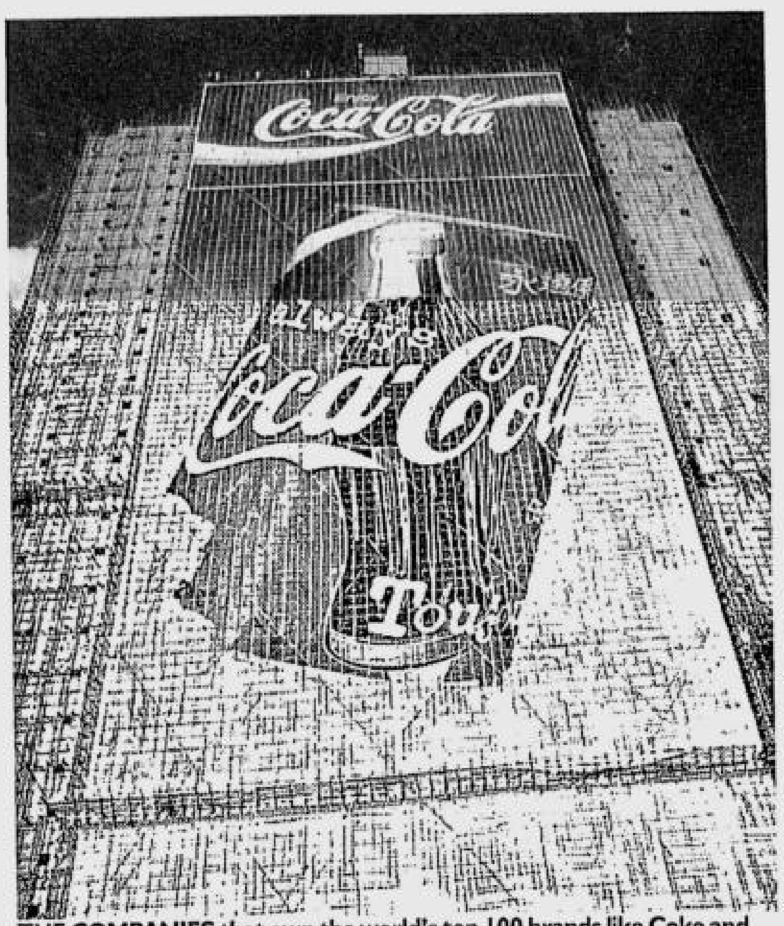
In 1987, 78 percent of these were associated with marketplace success.

In 1994, the study was revisited, based on the 200 most-awarded commercials in the world in 1992 and 1993—86 percent were associated with business success.

Burnett's objective have remained the same since they started undertaking these studies: To explore the link between creativity and effectiveness—is there one and how can they understand it better?

The reasons for this are numerous:

The duality in assessing advertising. On the one hand, creative competitions seemingly reward advertising for entertainment, production value, freshness, wit, charm and beauty.



THE COMPANIES that own the world's top 100 brands like Coke and McDonald's have a high percentage of their value in "intangible assets."

On the other hand, the real world of marketing focuses its efforts on how the advertising works and whether it sells.

The debate on this subject still continues; in fact, there is a substantial body of opinion that is dismissive of creative awards.

Some suspect that the motives that go into ads designed to win awards and ones designed to sell are different.

Leo Burnett's sense is that the debate on this subject of "either" creativity "or" effectiveness has shifted from a debate about "opposing forces" to assessing the correlation between them.

Let's take a look at one of the most awarded campaigns in recent years and then see how effective it was.

Budweiser "Whassup"

Objectives: The objectives of the advertising were to:

- Improve young adults' perceptions of Budweiser as young and fun, a beer to enjoy with friends.
- Strengthen Budweiser's dominant share of the regular premium beer segment.

Results: Quantitative research showed significant improvement in young adults' attitudes toward Budweiser following campaign exposure.

- "Budweiser is a fun brand"
- "Budweiser is a beer my friends would drink"
- "Budweiser is a brand for both men and women"

Budweiser's market share of the regular premium beer segment increased to an all-time high of 75 percent. Sales trend improved by 25 percent versus the previous year, while the rest of the regular premium brands experienced declines averaging 5 percent.

Lessons

Lessons to learn for local marketers:

- Make ideas simple.
- It is easy to complicate something.
- It is easy to be obscure—just look at a legal document or a tax report.
- It is hardest of all to simplify.
- The more you say, the less you will be understood.
- "When baiting a trap with cheese, always leave room for the mouse," says Saki

Nike TV campaign, Adidas TV campaign

Be single-minded

Most great commercials are a single-minded idea pursued relentlessly to a logical conclusion.

You can't be single-minded about two ideas. Instead of "fast AND effective" you need to choose "fast" OR "effective."

People are unlikely to remember more than one thing about your brand.

Ideas need room to breathe.

X-box, Levi's, Major League Baseball

Be relevant

People make decisions based on how a product fits into their lives—not the other way round.

Advertising needs to be engaging and entertaining. Unlike in a focus group no-one is forced to see your commercial.

Speak, don't shout. We can hear you.

Talk to people the way they talk to each other. The more "real" you appear, the more believable you will be.

Big ideas don't have to mean a big budget.

(Speech delivered at the Strategic Marketing Summit of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers which carried the theme Strat ur Stuff last Nov. 21.)

Ads can help build our country

By Roger Pe
Contributor

A COUPLE of weeks ago, a newspaper headlined the Philippines as "the most corrupt nation in the world." True or not, perception or reality, it could be a reflection of the kind of values we have. Was the judgment meant to malign, put us in a state of denial or awaken us?

The Advertising Board of the Philippines wants to do its kind of awakening, but not by harping on negative but on emphasizing the positive.

The Adboard, through its Araw Values Awards, recognizes branded and unbranded ads that promote love of country, family, God, respect for law, authority, commitment to truth and justice and concern for the environment.

It is part of Adboard's continuing effort to promote and develop socially responsible advertising. It is held every two years, alternate with the Ad Congress' Araw Awards.

Dodie Lucas, chair of 2002 Araw Values Awards organizing committee, says "our industry rides the same roller coaster as any business in this country. In one year, we can grow; in another, we can contract. We want to get out of the roller coaster and see ourselves riding a more even train. We can achieve it only if we have a citizenry influenced by values."

Fr. Ruben Tanseco, S.J, who gave the exhortation before the judging, threw these questions to everyone: "Are we agents of change or we've become victims of change?"

He also mentioned that "God did not make us Americans or Europeans, but made us Filipinos." He emphasized however, that we should strike a delicate balance between patriotism and internationalism if we want to foster a better social environment for our community.

Former Sen. Leticia Shahani, one of the judges in the panel, commented that "Filipino ads today look very American and sometimes hard to be understood by the man on the street. If we want to reach out, we should try to speak to him directly and say straight what we mean."

"This year, the Araw Values Awards is also introducing the Kababaihan Award which honors, as the name suggests, ads that portray women as part of nation-building," says Susan Dimacali, Adboard chairman and one of the most vocal proponents of showing women with dignity and respect in our media.

"Our advocacy ads for branded and unbranded campaigns have also improved. They are now with more depth, compelling messages and better crafted," Dimacali further notes.

The Araw Values Awards finalists are currently on an exhibit tour to allow more people to view the ads they've missed on air or newspapers because of thin media weights and willing generous sponsors. Some of these are current citation winners from the Clio, London, New York and Asian ad festivals.

It opened in Glorietta, Ayala Center and SM Megamall early this month and will be in Cebu and Baguio before the culminating awards night on Dec. 4 at Rockwell.

Firm honors its brand-builders

PROCTER & Gamble (P&G), the country's leading manufacturer of consumer goods, recently gave out its Market Operations Team Awards to groups who have helped the company build its brands' equity and business through excellent executions of its various programs.

P&G's market operations is a unique country organization set up in 2000 by P&G Distributing Philippines to help its global business units launch brand and marketing campaigns in the country and integrate functions to create and executive holistic marketing plans tailored to local market conditions.

"The achievement of P&G's sales target entails aggressively increasing demand and consumption for our brands, and continual innovation in go-to-market channels. Market Operations' charter is to drive these two strategies," remarked Johnip G. Cua, president and GM of P&G Philippines.

Through demo-selling, saturation marketing, and city-by-city micro-integration, Cua said P&G has opened channels to reach millions of consumers and employed thousands nationwide to executive the company's various programs.

"Whatever success we reap in terms of positive business results and accelerated awareness for our brands is clearly an indication of what we can do as a team. That is why we're giving recognition to our marketing teams who have supported our campaign to effectively reach our goal," Cua stressed.

Assisted by P&G Phils. country operations manager Sonny de Leon and marketing director Christine Angco, Cua presented the awards to the following: No Bounds, No Limits Award for Pantene Panacea Team, Innovation Award for Sail Ready Made Water Station Team Mini Market Project Team and Ariel Saturation Marketing Team, Employee Champion Award for Organizational Capability/HR/Logistics Team, Trailblazer Award for Tide Pinakamahabang Sampayan and Tide Total Wash Multi-Level Marketing and Micro-Integration, Dream Team Award for P&G Market Operations Multi-fuctional Team, Unsung Heroes Award for Cecille Manalili, Allen Babao and Ramon Mabini, The Captain Award for Rey Barin, Special Appreciation Award for Cris Filipina, The President's Award for Tide Nature Fresh Higante vs. Bulilit, and The Captain Award for Sonny de Leon.

P&G Market Operations Multi-Functional Team.

P&G's Tide Nature Fresh Team.

P&G Philippines' president Johnip G. Cua.

TIDE Team in Promo Dimensions Inc.

LEO Burnett Manila's Activation Team

ANOTHER MALL OPENS

Taipan Henry Sy opens two malls in one month. SM City Bicutan opens today along Dona Soledad Ave cor. West Service Road in Paranaque City. Its local is at the cross roads of several densely populated barangays and some of the country's biggest factories and warehouses. SM City Bicutan has 115,000 square meters in its floor area, has three levels and 1,650 parking slots. Last Nov. 15, SM opened SM City Cagayan de Oro City.

Car audio exhibit opens today

PIONEER, makers of audio and video technology and optical video disc innovations, invites everyone to visit the 2002 Pioneer Car AV World exhibit at the Powerplant Mall on Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, 2002.

For details, call 852-0033.

Selling more with solution centers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

NEXT to food, Filipinos buy personal care and beauty products the most from grocery shelves.

Because of this, one of the country's largest makers, has been creating what it calls solution centers in its outlets.

Unilever has put up a Health and Beauty Center at the Robinsons Galleria Supermarket.

Robinsons group senior vice president Robina Gokongwei-Pe says the tie up is part of its move to continually improve its product offerings.

Unilever's Carl Cruz of the customer development department, on the other hand, says the center, the first for the Unilever group worldwide, will give Unilever much needed access to vital customer information that would be instrumental in its marketing and production strategies.

Robinsons and Unilever decided to focus on a health and beauty center since sales of personal care products have been growing by double-digits during the past few years.

Despite the economic slowdown, a survey conducted by Unilever shows that 20 percent of the money that shoppers spend goes to personal care items. This offers immense opportunity for both suppliers and manufacturers as they strive to satisfy the shopper.

Cruz explains that the retail solution center is important to Unilever because of the data it can gather that would allow the manufacturing company to quickly respond to customer needs, which is crucial in these days of tight margins and intense competition.

"We could do product or marketing presentations, for instance, in the solution center," Cruz says.

Cruz adds that the data from the center would allow Unilever to roll out marketing campaigns that would be more attuned to the needs of the customers. Data would be crucial also in drafting strategic business plans.

For Robinsons, Pe says the center would allow the supermarket to maximize the sales and the tie-up and strong collaboration would improve category management.

"It has been successful so far because sales have increased by 12 percent," she says.

The solution center provides not just products, but value-adding services, promotions, merchandising, events and data interchange. An example of a service is giving advice to shoppers on personal care concerns.

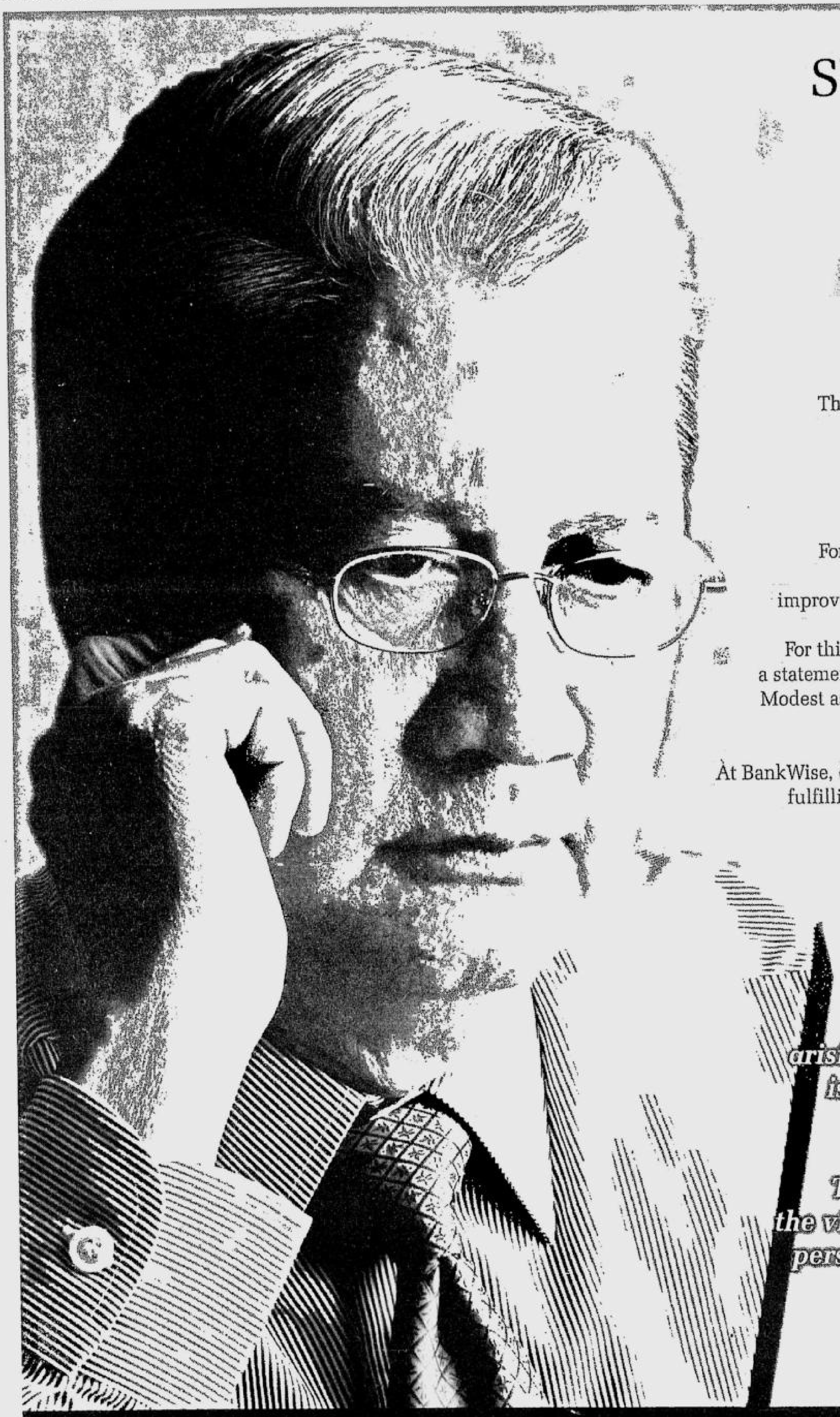
Robinsons stresses that the center would be open to other suppliers although Unilever would be the lead supplier.

To lead the shoppers to the Health and Beauty Solution Center, Robinsons changed the signages and put in shelves with rounded edges to differentiate the center from the other aisles in the supermarket.

For Unilever, the Robinsons center is one of three that it put up. One is in Shopwise and the other in Waltermart.

HEALTH & BEAUTY
CENTER

FOR every P100 spent, P20 goes to personal care products.



SUCCESS STARTS
AS A DREAM

Nothing happens unless first a dream,
the poet once said.

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and a strong republic.

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from the shadows of our collective dream.

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the opportunity to build, not to destroy.

For in building the edifice of peace and progress,
we nurture and secure our family,
improve our community and strengthen our republic.

For this reason, we dared to dream dreams and made
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Modest as our equity was, it was our expression of faith
in our country's future.

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person with an abiding commitment
to family, country and people"

Dante A. Ang
Chairman of the Board

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US economy slowly treading way to recovery

WASHINGTON—Americans returned to the shops as the job market improved and the outlook for the depressed manufacturing sector brightened, reports on Wednesday showed, suggesting an economic weak spot may be near an end.

Consumer confidence rebounded in November from a nine-year low the prior month while orders for durable goods rose in October for the first time since July and last week's initial jobless claims fell to their lowest level in 21 months.

A climb in a closely watched manufacturing index garnered close attention from financial markets and may lead economists to raise estimates for the key national Institute of Supply Management survey, due next week.

"The key point is all the data we've seen is consistent with the idea that the economy has seen the worst part of the soft patch," said Alan Ruskin, research director at 4CAST in New York.

The stock market soared on the news, with the Dow Jones industrial average soaring 2.9 percent to end up 254 points at 8,930. The dollar gained, trading at 99.00 cents against the euro and at 122.33 against the yen in late Wednesday trade.

Treasury bond prices tumbled with the benchmark 10-year note losing 1-16/32, its yield rising to 4.26 percent.

The stock rally rolled on even after a less upbeat economic report from the Federal Reserve.

In its "beige book" report, an anecdotal survey of economic conditions taken in late October and early November, the US central bank said the economy inched ahead in the survey period as consumers spent less on cars and manufacturers struggled, financial markets took the most cheer from the University of Michigan's November consumer sentiment index which jumped from to 84.2 from 80.6.

The number fell slightly short of expectations but broke a five-month run of declines as the recent turnaround in the stock market and a cut in already bargain-basement interest rates earlier this month from the Fed lifted consumer spirits.

The number echoed the tone of a report from the private Conference Board on Tuesday that said its consumer confidence index rebounded in November from a nine-year low.

Other encouraging news on the consumer front came from the Commerce Department on Wednesday.

Commerce said personal spending outpaced income growth for the first time since the summer, rising 0.4 percent after a 0.4-percent drop in September.

Consumer spending accounts for a whopping two-thirds of economic activity, so it is crucial to ensuring the economic recovery is a strong one. It helped buffer the effects of the business-led economic downturn last year and has played a major role in keeping the recovery going in 2002.

There were also signs that businesses may finally be starting to make investments in equipment. Fed officials and private economists see a pickup in business spending as essential for a solid and enduring recovery.

Durable goods orders rose a higher-than-expected 2.8 percent in October, the Commerce Department said, boosted in part by strong demand for machinery and a 65.2-percent surge for communications equipment.

And in a sign manufacturers would have to boost output to keep up with any increase in demand, inventories stayed lean, down 0.2 percent, while unfilled orders fell 0.5 percent.

There was more good news for the beleaguered manufacturing sector, which fell into recession before last year's slump in the broad economy and has since struggled to return to health.

The National Association of Purchasing Management's Midwest business activity index rose to 54.3 in November from 45.9 in October. A reading above 50 indicates growth.

But the Fed report offered a less optimistic picture for the sector, saying manufacturing activity "remained soft" in most areas with spending on new facilities and equipment limited.

Positive signals for the labor market were tempered by the fact that seasonal factors may have been at play.

Initial claims for state unemployment insurance benefits fell by 17,000 to 364,000 in the week ended Nov. 23, the Labor Department said. That was down from a revised 381,000 the previous week, beating expectations to reach the lowest level since the Feb. 17, 2001 week. *Reuters*

GROWING numbers of Chinese urbanites are embracing the trappings of capitalism and many are optimistic about the future prospects of the Chinese economy. Although China remains a socialist state in name, a younger generation of city dwellers is becoming increasingly like citizens in other urban areas. AFP

China's export growth slowing, think tank says

BEIJING—China's exports are likely to rise 12 percent in 2003, down from expected growth of more than 20 percent this year, a top government think tank said on Thursday.

"Exports are expected to reach $364.28 billion next year, up 12 percent," the State Information Center said in a research report published in the China Securities Journal.

"There will be both opportunities and challenges in the foreign trade environment next year," it said.

This year, despite gloomy initial official forecasts, exports have bucked the global downturn as foreign firms shifted manufacturing of a wide range of goods from consumer electronics to heavy machinery to China, tapping a vast pool of cheap labor.

But the report said exports would face several key challenges next year, including an uncertain global economy, less scope for the government to raise tax rebates for exporters and a rising number of anti-dumping cases against Chinese firms.

Chinese goods worth more than $10 billion could be hit by anti-dumping and safeguard curbs imposed by other countries, it said.

A weak dollar, to which the Chinese yuan is virtually pegged, helped China's exports this year, but that advantage may disappear next year, it said.

On the positive side, membership of the World Trade Organization, which China joined last December, was helping expand markets while demand for Chinese electronic goods and car parts was rising, it said.

Another key stimulus was coming from the fast-growing private sector as more such firms were allowed to sell their products overseas, the think tank said. *Reuters*

World air traffic still stalled year after Sept 11

GENEVA—World air passenger traffic remains stalled well below long-projected growth rates a year after the suicide hijackings in the United States sent it into a tail spin, industry sources said on Wednesday.

But they said cargo volumes were recovering strongly and that figures expected shortly from global airlines body IATA for the month of October would confirm the trend.

This is a sign that world trade was also picking up steam again.

Recovery, according to the sources, was being driven by a strong performance from the Asia-Pacific region, where passenger numbers are running about 3 percent up on last year, and cargo about 14 percent up.

Statistics just issued for August by the global airports organization ACI showed that while passenger numbers were 3 percent down on the same month last year, cargo on both domestic and international flights was up by 5 percent.

Figures from IATA—the International Air Transport Association—show a similar picture in comparison with the month preceding the events of Sept. 11, 2001, when four planes were hijacked and used to kill some 3,000 people.

IATA, which covers only international services from its 273 member airlines, said passenger traffic was 4.6 percent down in August against August 2001.

Set against the figures from ACI, the Airports Council International, industry sources said this was a clear sign that foreign air travel—especially to and from the United States—was picking up more slowly than travel on domestic routes.

For several years before 2001, airline executives and IATA itself had been predicting annual growth in passenger traffic of some 5 percent up to the year 2010.

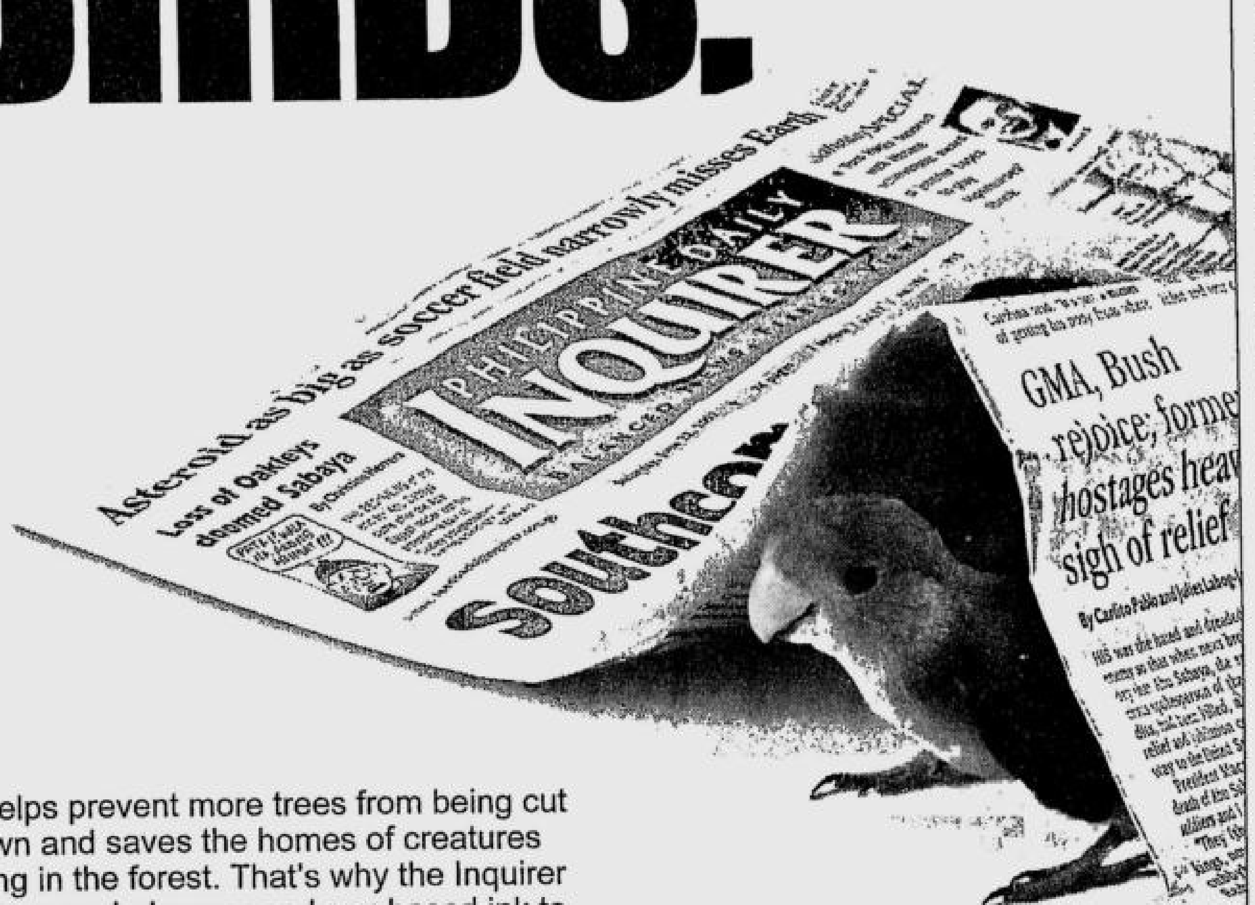
They argued that this was vital to maintain the health of the troubled industry.

But in September the airline body, like ACI based in Geneva, said it did not expect a return to passenger numbers before the hijackings.

The year 2001, however, had already witnessed a slowdown due to global economic problems—until the end of next year.

Current trends suggest this prediction would hold, if there were no war against Iraq or other major conflagration in the Middle East, according to the industry sources.

Air cargo figures are seen as a strong indication of world economic health as nearly 50 percent of goods traded internationally are moved in the holds of airliners or by airborne freight services. *Reuters*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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference.

BUSINESSMEN pass under an electronic share prices board in downtown Tokyo. Japanese share prices closed above the symbolic 9,000-point mark for the first time in more than a month led by a strong performance on Wall Street and a firm showing by banks, dealers said. AFP

Japan's Takenaka still working on bank plan

TOKYO—Japan's Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka said on Thursday that a keenly awaited timetable for his plan to clean up banks' huge bad loans was still being adjusted, and would be announced as planned on Friday.

"No final version exists yet, we are working on adjustments so we can announce it tomorrow," Takenaka said in answers to questions in parliament.

A draft obtained by Reuters on Wednesday set out only a few specifics of the plan, seen as a key test of Takenaka's resolve to reform a banking system burdened with bad loans of around 50 trillion yen ($411 billion).

It included specific dates for a decision on new guidelines covering public funds injections for banks, as well as for the implementation of bank inspections by financial authorities and new accounting procedures to clarify the amount of bad loans.

"Takenaka appears to have recovered lost ground, as the schedule sets the stage for stricter self-inspections and loan asset inspections," Mitsubishi Securities said in a report.

But the draft was short on details of exactly how bad loans would be reduced and added little new on one of the hottest issues of bank reform, a tightening of rules on using "deferred tax assets" (DTAs)—or future tax refunds—as current capital.

UBS Warburg called the draft "mild," saying it had failed to specify a timetable on tax and accounting issues.

Takenaka himself declined to be drawn on the contents of the timetable, telling parliament: "There are no new policies in the timetable, our aim was to set out the order of work. The basic idea is to have the measures in place by the end of the fiscal full year" (in March).

As an incentive to banks to work harder on clearing up their loan problems, the draft plan cut the time that any bank failing to meet capital ratios after sorting out bad loans has to address the problem to one year from three.

While this adds more teeth to the government's corrective procedures, analysts have questioned whether fine-tuning the punishments would really make banks speed up their efforts.

The plan's setting of dates for a decision on guidelines for the use of public funds as a possible step toward nationalizing some banks was seen as another sign of progress. *Reuters*

Tokyo leads big rally in Asian stocks

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks rallied on Thursday, led by a 3-percent gain in Tokyo and heartened by growing confidence in the US economy that propelled shares on Wall Street to their highest levels in months.

Technology and telecoms shares led the way in several markets, including in Tokyo, where the key Nikkei average closed at a two-month high, and in Hong Kong, where the Hang Seng index reached a three-month high by mid-afternoon in Asia.

"Sentiment has really picked up after the New York rally," said Hiroaki Kuramochi, head of equities at Credit Lyonnais in Tokyo.

The broad MSCI Asia Pacific Free Index and the closely watched MSCI Far East ex-Japan Index rose to their highest levels in about two months.

The dollar was little changed around 122.30 yen and 99.05 cents to the euro as the closure of US markets on Thursday for Thanksgiving Day kept a lid on trading in Asia.

Tokyo's Nikkei average topped the leaders of major indices, closing up 3.39 percent at 9,176.78, its highest close since Sept. 30.

Computer chip equipment makers Advantest Corp. and Tokyo Electron Ltd. jumped 12.6 percent and 8.47 percent, respectively.

"I cannot think of a better time to buy," said Muneyuki Tsuji, fund manager at Japan investment Trust Management.

The Hang Seng index was up 2 percent at 10,156.74 by 0639 GMT after earlier hitting 10,165.64, its highest since Aug. 27.

Fixed-line telecoms firm PCCW Ltd., already up 12 percent so far this week after sacking staff and cutting wages, gained another 4 percent to HK$1.56.

Legend Group, China's largest computer maker and listed in Hong Kong, was up 4.4 percent at HK$2.95.

In Singapore, chip maker Chartered Semiconductor jumped more than 20 percent to S$1.20, helping push the key Straits Times Index up 1.37 percent to 1,414.12. *Reuters*

S. Korea's Oct output sees fastest growth in 2 years

SEOUL—South Korea's industrial output rose at its fastest pace in more than two years in October on brisk sales of cars and semiconductor chips, helping calm fears Asia's fourth-largest economy is losing steam.

But economists cautioned against drawing too much optimism from the figures released on Thursday as consumer spending continued to show signs of faltering.

Industrial output rose 2.4 percent in October from September, beating a forecast for a 1.4-percent rise in a Reuters survey of 10 economists.

From a year ago, output jumped 12.7 percent in October, the strongest growth in more than two years, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said.

"The data confirms the economy stays on an upward trend," said Lim Ji-won, an economist at J.P. Morgan. "Consumption is not cooling off rapidly but the rising trend is a bit weak," she said.

Wholesale and retail sales jumped 7 percent in October from a year ago, versus a 2.9-percent rise in September, the NSO said. But sales rose a scant 0.2 percent on the month as government steps to curb consumer spending, a key contributor to growth, continued to bite. *Reuters*

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Hewlett-Packard's Top-5 Most Desirable... for 2002

Gift guides, product catalogues, top picks from readers and editors of various magazines and websites – all useful references for folks shopping for cool tech-toys for themselves or to fill those Christmas stockings. What if you asked the product makers for their top picks? Hewlett-Packard (HP) narrows the search for the perfect imaging and printing gift with its "Top-5 Most Desirable" product guide, selected from over 30 new products launched in 2002 (a chart showcasing the full range of products launched is being sent to you).

#1: Most Desirable All-in-One Printer (AiO) – HP PSC 2210

Multi-tasking made fun and easy

*suggested retail price: P 20,899

Working from home? Love the challenges of multi-tasking? Be inspired to do more, create more with this all-in-one home-office aide, which not only faxes, scans, prints and copies, but is also the only one around to have photo printing capabilities. It gives true-to-life photo quality images made possible by HP's PhotoREt4 color layering technology with optional 6-ink color printing, when used with HP Colourfast Photo Paper. The HP PSC 2210 prints direct from digital cameras using the built-in memory card slots for CompactFlash, SmartMedia, Secure Digital and Sony Memory Stick. You can also enjoy speedy previews of your digital photos with HP's exclusive and enhanced Photo Proof Sheet which includes thumbnail images and options for choosing the number of prints, image size, paper size and frames. Favorite photos can be easily digitized with the versatile flatbed scanner that delivers 1200 x 2100 dpi images, and sent to friends via color fax. Alternatively, scan photos directly to the Internet or transform photo albums into a video slide show complete with audio, accomplished effortlessly with HP's Memories Disc Creator software. All these features are packed into its relatively small frame of 452mm (W) x 358mm (D) x 272mm (H), which leaves plenty of working space on your desk.

#2: Most Desirable Mobile Photo Printer – HP Photosmart 130 Color Inkjet Printer

Ultimate portability, ultimate mobility

* suggested retail price: Php 8,055

No bigger than a tissue box, this feature-packed photo printer blends in perfectly with any interior décor, and delivers professional quality borderless 4 x 6-inch photos, with amazingly brilliant colors. Rich functionality and intelligent built-in image enhancement features lie just beneath its super stylish exterior, so source images can be automatically analyzed and improved through modifying contrast, brightness, focus, sharpness and smoothness. The HP Photosmart 130 Color Inkjet Printer is ideal for instant yet lasting photo printouts – up to 65 years when used with HP Colourfast 4R Photo Paper. No PC? No problem – plug a digital camera memory card directly into the nifty little beauty and print anytime, anywhere... imagine, you can print and view your holiday photos even before you reach home, while you're on the plane-ride back. Cool.

#3: Most Desirable Desktop Photo Printer – HP Photosmart 7550

Picture-perfect every time

* suggested retail price: Php 16,999

If you've been thinking of getting a photo printer so you can start getting beautiful, professional-looking digital photos right in the comfort of your own home, look no further than the HP Photosmart 7550. It's a real stunner, with an impressive range of features encased in an ultra-sleek metallic frame. At this year's Christmas party, wow your guests by editing and printing their candid photos instantly using the HP Photosmart 7550's advanced 1.8-inch color LCD screen, which lets you preview and edit your pictures before you print them – without a PC. Be amazed by this party centerpiece's 7-ink printing enabled by HP PhotoREt 4 color layering technology, which guarantees truly impressive color accuracy and stunning photographic images of up to 4800 x 1200 optmised dpi. For a perfect party memento, print your favorite photos on standard album pages or those with border designs. The HP Photosmart 7550 has an automatic paper-type sensor that will detect the paper type used to deliver optimum print performance. In addition, its optional two-sided printing mode saves time and money. Finally, you can even share magical moments with friends and family by emailing your digital photos to them – simply with a touch of the intuitive front-panel buttons on the HP Photosmart 7550.

#4: Most Desirable Inkjet Printer – HP Deskjet 5550

Intelligent high-achiever, gorgeous desk-mate

* suggested retail price: Php 8,499

Whether you're a straight-As student or high-flying business executive, you'll find the Deskjet 5550 the perfect desk companion. It's an incredibly smart printer for demanding individuals who take connectivity, efficiency and professional photo-quality printouts for granted. Network-able with HP Jetdirect wired and wireless print servers, it offers multiple users virtually grain-free, stunning photographic images with optional 6-ink color printing with HP PhotoREt 4 color layer technology. It also automatically detects paper type and delivers optimum print performance each time. In addition, users can print screen captures instantly via the print-screen button on the computer keyboard and opt for automatic two-sided printing to save time and money. Utterly reliable, the ink backup printing modes ensure uninterrupted printing, especially when printing crucial documents, even if one cartridge runs out of ink. The bottom line: it's one smart desk-mate that looks good too.

#5: Most Desirable Scanner – HP Scanjet 4570c

Breaking speed limits for unlimited efficiency

* suggested retail price: Php 15,500

The perfect scanning solution for busy individuals with specialized scanning needs. With no warm-up time, fast preview scans of 7 seconds and USB 2.0 high-speed connectivity that transfers scans to computers 40 times faster, the HP Scanjet 4570c promises fuss-free one-touch functionality. Pushing the boundaries of conventional scanning technology, the HP Scanjet 4570c captures images from almost anything – pictures, slides, negatives and 3D objects – in 2400 dpi optical resolution and 48-bit color. This ultra-sleek scanner comes with an in-box transparent materials adaptor that allows users to scan multiple 35mm negatives or slides, plus an optional automatic photo feeder that scans up to two dozen 4 x 6-inch photos at 6 photos per minute – so you can focus your time and attention on the more important things, like picking out the perfect wine for your New Year's Eve feast.

About HP

HP is a leading global provider of products, technologies, solutions and services to consumers and businesses. The company's offerings span IT infrastructure, personal computing and access devices, global services and imaging and printing. HP completed its merger transaction involving Compaq Computer Corp. on May 3, 2002. The company would have had revenue on a combined company basis with Compaq of approximately $81.1 billion in fiscal 2001 and has operations in more than 160 countries. More information about HP is available at http://www.hp.com.

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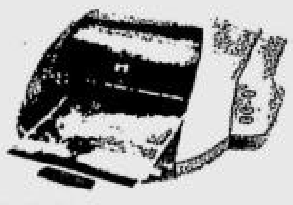

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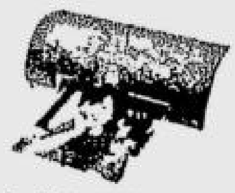
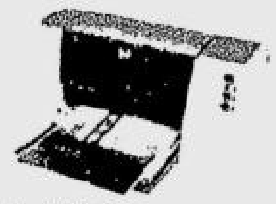
- 1200 dpi
- Compact and light weight
- 8/6 ppm (black/colour)

PhP 3199.00
FREE Original Team Cap



hp deskjet 3420
- HP PhotoREt 3 colour layering technology
- 2400 dpi
- 422x142x182mm
- 2.0kg total weight
- 10/8 ppm (black/colour)

PhP 4,499.00
FREE Original Team Cap



hp deskjet 3820
- HP PhotoREt 3 colour layering technology
- 4800-optimised colour
- USB 2.0 full speed
- Print cancel button, low-ink indicator
- 12/10 ppm (black/colour)

PhP 6,499.00
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hp psc 750
- Print, scan, copy
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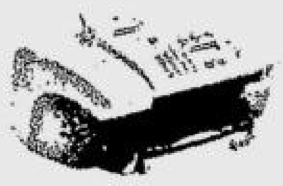
- 600x1200 dpi optical resolution
- 19/8.5ppm (black/colour)

PhP 12,550.00
FREE scale model
BMW WilliamsF1 Team Car



hp officejet v40
- Print, fax, scan, copy
- HP PhotoREt 3 colour layering technology
- 600x1200 dpi optical resolution
- 8/7ppm (black/colour)

PhP 12,550.00
FREE scale model
BMW WilliamsF1 Team Car

hp invent

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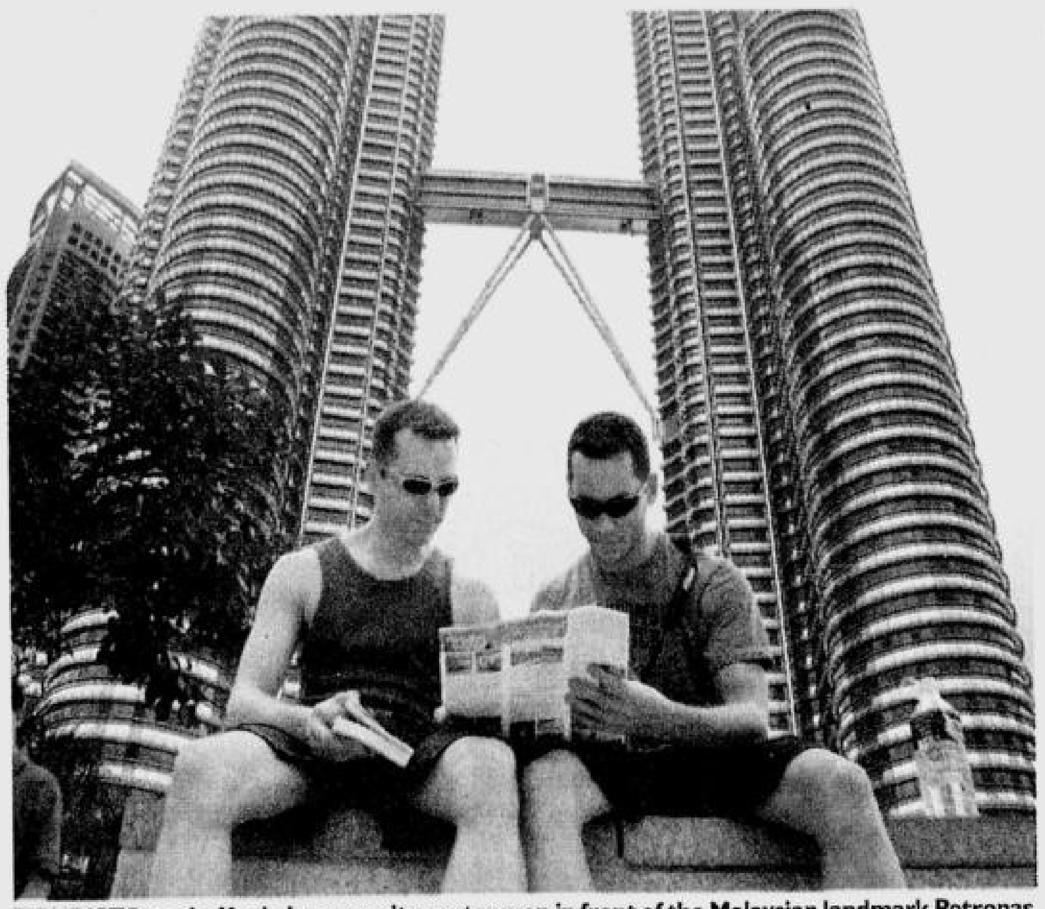
ADVT



TOURISTS read a Kuala Lumpur city center map in front of the Malaysian landmark Petronas Twin Tower in Kuala Lumpur Tuesday. Worried that tourist arrivals might plummet, Malaysia will monitor whether travel advisories warning of terror risks in Southeast Asia are hurting the economy, said Malaysia Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

AP

Trade talks fail to break deadlock over drugs

GENEVA—Rich and developing states failed on Wednesday to resolve their differences after three days of talks aimed at ensuring countries with health crises like AIDS can have access to cheap medicine.

World Trade Organization (WTO) states agreed a year ago that poor countries battling such scourges could ignore international patent rules that protect the earnings of multinational drugs firms and seek cheaper, often copied remedies.

But they still have to agree on how to put the principle into practice before an end-year deadline.

"There is considerable frustration at the way the negotiations are going," said one envoy from a Latin American country. "There are still a lot of gray areas."

Trade officials said that more talks had been tentatively scheduled for Friday.

A deal on medicines is vital for the millions of people in developing countries either suffering from or threatened by AIDS and other killer diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, health officials say.

It is also crucial to the success of the Doha round of global free trade talks, launched in November last year in the Qatari capital to give a boost to the struggling world economy, and which set an accord on drugs by end-2002 as its first goal.

Trade ministers meeting in Sydney, Australia, earlier this month had appeared on the verge of an accord, but diplomats said the mood had since soured.

"Things have definitely slipped back. We are going into labyrinth-like discussions that have nothing to do with the spirit of Doha," said another envoy.

All countries agree that the poorest states—the world's 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs)—should have automatic access to the new system.

Richer states do not want to extend the right to all developing countries, while the latter reject any attempt to divide them.

The United States, the European Union and Switzerland, under pressure from their powerful pharmaceutical companies, are also pressing for a tight definition of a health emergency, virtually limiting it to AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, three of Africa's biggest killers, trade sources said.

Developing states, backed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Nobel prize-winning Medecins sans Frontiers (MSF), aim to keep the wording vaguer to cover other possible health disasters.

"Let's remember that the interests of millions of sick people in developing countries are at stake here," said Caeline Charveriat of Oxfam, the British-based charity. *Reuters*

US retailers hope sex, discounts will drive sales

CHICAGO—Sex sells and money talks.

US retailers are banking on those clichés to drive sales this holiday season, with Abercrombie & Fitch Co.—famous for its skin-filled catalogues—turning to scantily clad in-store greeters in a bid to lure reluctant consumers.

If that doesn't work, Kmart Corp. is offering round-the-clock discounts this weekend, the traditional kick-off to the holiday shopping period, staying open 24 hours a day from Friday through Sunday, for the second straight year. The bankrupt retailer needs a strong holiday season as it fights to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy by next summer.

Other retailers are using similar tactics as they try to stir up demand in what analysts expect will be a mediocre holiday shopping season, as a slack economy and waning consumer confidence restrain spending.

"Tomorrow everyone rests and then Friday it begins," said Brian Tunick, specialty retail analyst with J.P Morgan.

"There's going to be a barrage of door-busters. The consumer feels like they're owed 20 to 25 percent off. The Abercombies are going to try to do what they can to stand out in a very crowded retail environment," he said.

Standing out for Abercrombie & Fitch means catalogue models stripped down to their underwear greeting customers when they enter stores. An Abercrombie spokesperson confirmed the models would be in stores, but referred questions to an outside public relations firm, which did not immediately return a call.

The retailer has drawn some protests over its catalogues, which now come specially wrapped to hide the barely dressed models from young eyes.

While the sexy advertising has attracted plenty of media attention, it has not translated into strong sales for Abercrombie, which has reported seven straight months of declining sales at stores open at least one year.

"If parents were thinking of getting a gift certificate or gift card (for their children), maybe they'll be a little turned off by going to Abercrombie, but the kids themselves will certainly be buzzing about it," Tunick said.

For less risque retailers, discounts will be the recurring theme this holiday season as stores battle a weak economy.

Analysts are predicting a mediocre holiday season at best, although a recent upturn in consumer confidence data and a rebounding stock market have somewhat bolstered expectations.

The calendar is also posing a challenge because Thanksgiving falls six days later than it did last year, meaning fewer prime holiday shopping days. Reuters

EU takes tough line on debt in budget rule revamp

BRUSSELS—The European Commission set out proposals for better enforcement of EU budget rules on Wednesday that would give Brussels greater power to make member states reduce high debt levels and reward low-debt countries.

The plan came after months of pressure from governments and others to make budget rules more growth-friendly.

Commission President Romano Prodi said it aims to inject greater intelligence, flexibility, and authority into the way the European Union applies limits on budget deficits.

"We want to implement the Stability and Growth Pact in a more intelligent way as we move forward," said the EU chief, who last month criticized the pact's rigid rules as "stupid." "So it will be for both rigor and flexibility."

The current budget rules, designed to safeguard monetary union, require deficits to stay below 3 percent of gross domestic product—a limit which Portugal broke in 2001 and Germany will break in 2002.

States must also work toward broadly balanced budgets in the medium term.

The proposal would take account of the whole economic cycle to set budget objectives and give more leeway for countries that have low debt to borrow to finance investment or reforms.

But the plan is to take a stricter line with states which are not cutting debt fast enough. Tardiness in cutting debt would trigger a discipline action whose ultimate sanction is a fine and which has so far only been applied to deficits. *Reuters*

Wal-Mart seen raising stake in Japan's Seiyu

TOKYO—US retailing giant Wal-Mart Stores Inc. looks poised to exercise an option to boost its stake in partner Seiyu Co. Ltd. after the struggling Japanese supermarket chain found a buyer for its debt-laden financing unit.

Calling it a done deal, industry analysts said on Thursday that Seiyu's announcement of the sale of Tokyo City Finance (TCF) paved the way for Wal-Mart to exercise an option to raise its Seiyu stake to 33.4 percent from 6.1 percent before the year-end.

The move would make Wal-Mart Seiyu's top shareholder, overtaking trading house Sumitomo Corp.

Seiyu cleared a major hurdle on Monday when it announced plans to sell TCF, a financing and real estate unit, to the Lone Star Group, a US private equity fund. It plans to take a charge of 51.7 billion yen ($422.5 million) for the sale.

By exercising the first option, Wal-Mart would acquire 192.8 million new shares in Seiyu at 270 yen per share, a 30-percent discount from current market levels, for a total investment of about 52 billion yen ($425 million).

"There were some concerns that TCF would not be able to find a buyer," said HSBC retail analyst Toshiko Binder.

The announcement of the sale made it much more feasible for Wal-Mart to increase the stake, she added.

As part of an equity and operational alliance agreed in March, Wal-Mart has until Dec. 27 to exercise the first of three options to boost its holding in Seiyu. By 2007, it could hold a 66.7-percent stake in the Japanese retailer. *Reuters*

Fraport meets earnings target

FRANKFURT—Frankfurt airport operator Fraport AG said on Thursday its core nine-month earnings rose 9.2 percent, in line with analysts' expectations, and reiterated its outlook for the year.

But the company said there was a chance a Philippine court could rule that its concession to build and operate a terminal in Manila was void, after a parliamentary inquiry into the project.

Fraport, which has already committed $383.2 million to the project, said it was in talks with the Philippine government about the possible financial impact of any such ruling.

"The Philippine government confirmed that the legal situation resulting from such a decision would improve chances for re-transferring the project and getting appropriate compensation payments for Fraport's investments," the company said.

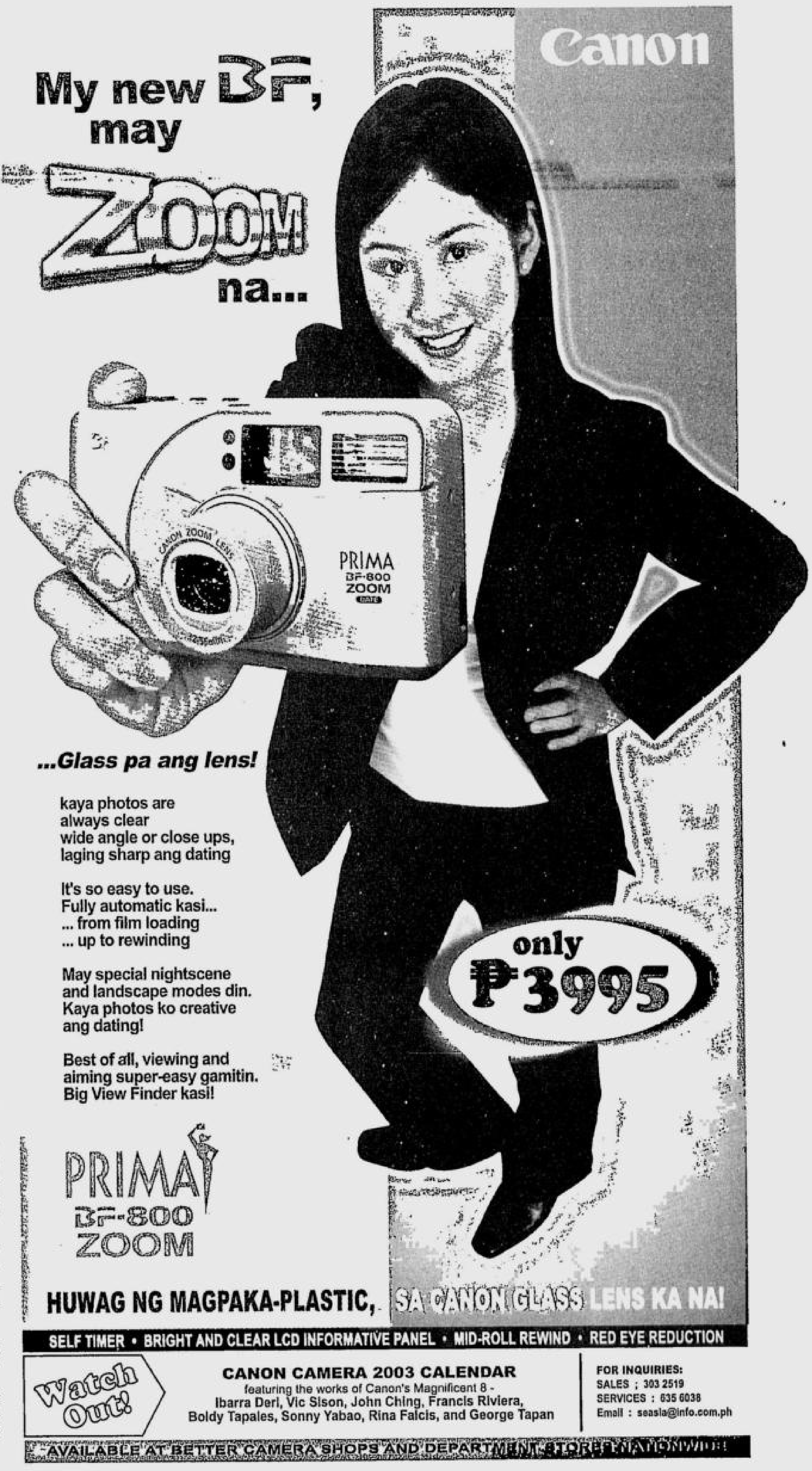
Fraport has said it may have to write off its investment.

The company, which runs continental Europe's largest airport in terms of passengers and freight, said nine-month earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) came in at 401.8 million euros ($399 million).

Sales rose 13.9 percent to 1.34 billion euros, due mainly to the consolidation of an airport security company but also boosted by higher retail revenues and an increase in airport charges.

A Reuters poll of analysts forecast nine-month Ebitda of 397 million euros on sales of 1.37 billion euros.

The company said it still expected to make at least 500 million euros in Ebitda this year. *Reuters*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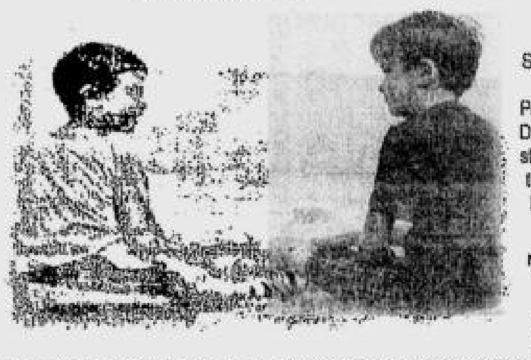

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Stolen Summer by writer/director Pete Jones is the winner of the amateur filmmaking competition Project Greenlight. Kevin Pollak, Aidan Quinn, Brian Dennehy, and child actor Max Weinberg stars in the story about a Catholic boy and a Jewish boy. When the Jewish boy finds out he's dying, he works with his friend to figure out how he can make sure he gets into heaven.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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2 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	HARRY POTTER
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MASTER OF DISGUISE
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
8	HIBLA
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	BAHID

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

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2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	KASIPING

starmall Movies
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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

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2	KASIPING
3	HARRY POTTER
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5	HIBLA

METROPOLIS star
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2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	BAHID
5	KASIPING
6	HARRY POTTER

M star
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(Las Pinas)
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1	HARRY POTTER
2	KASIPING

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(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
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NOV. 28 - 29	R- TIME : 5:40.8:10, 10:40 PM
NOV. 30, TO DEC 1	R- TIME : 2:10.5:40, 8:10, 10:40 PM
DEC. 2 - 3	R- TIME : 5:40.8:10, 10:40 PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GHOST SHIP
2	SANTA CLAUSE-2

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	HIBLA
4	BAHID
5	MASTER OF DISGUISE
6	KASIPING
7 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
9 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	KASIPING
2	BAHID
3	BAHID
4 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
7 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	HIBLA
9	GISING NA SI ADAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	HARRY POTTER
2 (SDDS)	BAHID
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KASIPING

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	KASIPING
5 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAHID

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BAHID
Lords	TUKAAN
Jennet	

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 ; 533.3856

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	HARRY POTTER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 735.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	KASIPING
3	RESERVE
4	BAHID
5	HARRY POTTER

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 ; 879.2029

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	KASIPING

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Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	BAHID
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
5 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	THE TRANSPORTER
7	HIBLA

Farmers Plaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	KASIPING
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KASIPING
2	BAHID
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HIBLA
2 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
3 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	BAHID

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BAHID
2 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	RESERVE FOR AMA
2	RESERVE FOR AMA
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	BAHID
2	CHANGING LANES
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Magic Star Cinema
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1 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
3	BAHID

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	BRAZEN WOMAN
3 (DTS)	KASIPING
4	BALLISTIC ECK VS' SEVER

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3 (DTS)	KASIPING
4	HARRY POTTER
5	TOUCH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	KASIPING

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	KASIPING

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	BAHID
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
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1	SEX FILES
2	HARRY POTTER
3	HIBLA

Fiesta World Mall
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1	BAHID
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	HARRY POTTER
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

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1 (DOLBY EX)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 (DTS ES)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER

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2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	BAHID
7	KASIPING
8	CLOCKSTOPPERS

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	KASIPING
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	CLOCKSTOPPERS
5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	HIBLA
7	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	MASTER OF DISGUISE
9	BAHID
10	KAILANGAN KITA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	CLOCKSTOPPERS
2	MASTER OF DISGUISE
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	BAHID
9	DIE ANOTHER DAY
10	HIBLA
11	GHOST SHIP
12	KASIPING

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	MASTER OF DISGUISE
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	KASIPING
8	HIBLA
9	DIE ANOTHER DAY
10	KAILANGAN KITA
11	DIE ANOTHER DAY
12	BAHID

SM MEGAMALL
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1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	CLOCKSTOPPERS
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	KASIPING
8	KAILANGAN KITA
9	BAHID
10	DIE ANOTHER DAY
11	MASTER OF DISGUISE
12	HIBLA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	KASIPING
4	BAHID
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	DIE ANOTHER DAY

SM SOUTHMALL
8006888

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	MASTER OF DISGUISE
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	BAHID
8	DIE ANOTHER DAY
9	CLOCKSTOPPERS
10	KASIPING

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	CLOCKSTOPPERS
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	BAHID
8	DIE ANOTHER DAY

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GHOST SHIP
2	CLOSED
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	BAHID
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	CLOSED
8	SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	CLOCKSTOPPERS
6	BAHID

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	BAHID
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
4	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KASIPING

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	SPIDER
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY

SM BICUTAN

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	BAHID
3	MAX KEBBLE
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	TWO TIMER
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

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1	DIE ANOTHER DAY 11:20 FS/11:50 MF/2:30/5:10/7:50 10:00 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:40 END
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY 11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:00/5:40/8:20/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:10 END

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2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	BAHID
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
7	MASTER OF DISGUISE
8	KAILANGAN KITA
9	KASIPING
10	CLOCKSTOPPERS

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3	KASIPING
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	BAHID
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY
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1	KASIPING
2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5	KAILANGAN KITA
6	HIBLA
7	DIE ANOTHER DAY
8	BAHID

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1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
2	CLOCKSTOPPERS
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4	DIE ANOTHER DAY

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2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	BAHID
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5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
6	DIE ANOTHER DAY

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2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	DIE ANOTHER DAY
5	KASIPING
6	BAHID

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3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
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5	HIBLA
6	CLOCKSTOPPERS

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Benefit show for AIDS Day gathers stellar lineup of artists

HARD Rock Café kicks off its Christmas celebration with a party for a good cause, "The World AIDS Day Concert," Dec. 1.

The event is the biggest gathering of local music stars and features Ivy Violan, Janno Gibbs, Dessa, RJ Rosales, Agot Isidro, Geneva Cruz, Janet Basco, France Laurel, Jinky Llamanzares, Carol Banawa and Regine Velasquez.

The show will officially signal the start of the World AIDS Day celebration in the Philippines.

Musical director is Paul Mitra, who will be backed up by a stellar cast of musicians led by Cesar Aguas on guitar, Soc Mina on bass, Nino Regalado on drums, Bong Adela on second keyboards and Bubbles Jereza, Marnie Jereza and Arnie Mendaraos, a finalist in the recent "Himig Handog" love songs competition, on back-up vocals.

"Music for Life—World AIDS Day Celebration" is joint project of DKT Philippines (distributor of Frenzy Condoms), 90.7 Love Radio and supported by Mossimo and Lipton Ice Tea.

Hard Rock Café also presents a series of special shows this December, starting with The Company and Bituin Escalante on Dec. 5. Other shows will feature Freestyle (Dec. 12), South Border (Dec. 13), Side A (Dec. 19), Ang4gettables (Isay Alvarez, Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo and Dyords Javier (Dec. 21) and the trio of Wency Cornejo, Jett Pangan and Cooky Chua (Dec. 27).

Nightly entertainment also continues with acoustic guitarist Paolo Santos (Wednesdays), Toy Symphony (Mondays), Big (Tuesdays), Passage (Thursdays), Soulid (Saturdays) and Asciano (Sundays). Showtime is 9:30 p.m.

Hard Rock has also lined up special performances featuring Pido With Take One (Dec. 2, 9 and 16), Prime Council (Dec. 20, 23, 27 and 30) and Origin (Dec. 6 and 13).

For ticket inquiries and reservations, call 893-4661 to 64.

BASCO

Grand reunion

RICKY Reyes Learning Institute chief executive officer and salon mogul Ricky Reyes invites all RRLI graduates and alumni to a get-together affair "RRLI First Grand Reunion and Job Fair 2002."

The event takes place today at Philippine Trade Training Center, PICC Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Mila Drilon, wife of Senate President Frank Drilon, will be the special guest. She will cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The "RRLI First Grand Reunion and Job Fair 2002" will showcase seminars on salon management, new trends in make-up, hairstyling and catering; colors and cut for the year 2002; advance dressmaking techniques; and dynamism in beauty industry.

Aside from the reunion, Reyes will hold a job fair, "Give Job on Christmas Day" at the lobby of PTTC.

Tickets are now available at P300. For reservation and information, call RRLI Hotline at 723-5440 or 721-7705.

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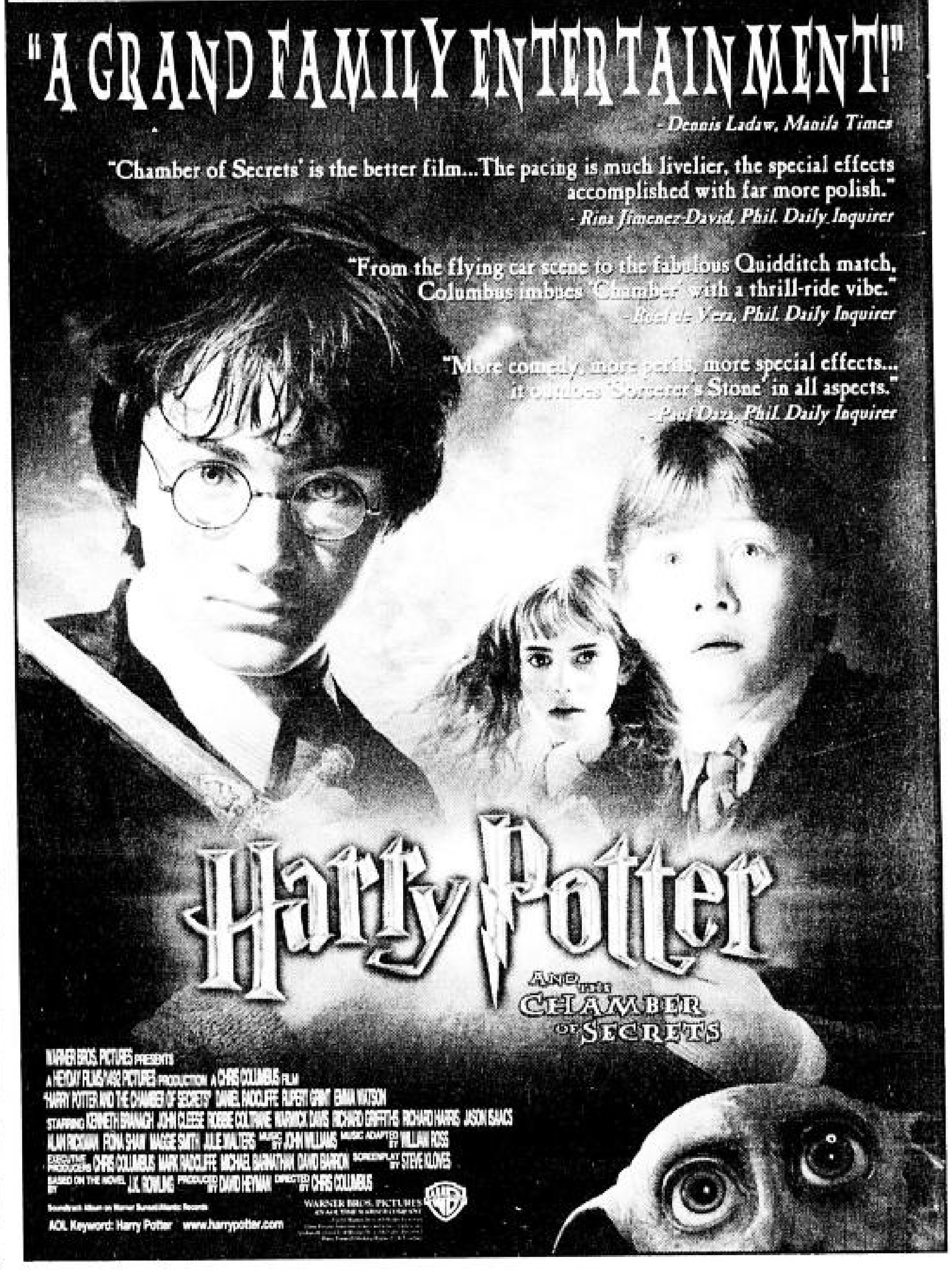
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- Dennis Ladaw, Manila Times
"Chamber of Secrets' is the better film...The pacing is much livelier, the special effects accomplished with far more polish."
- Rina Jimenez-David, Phil. Daily Inquirer
"From the flying car scene to the fabulous Quidditch match, Columbus imbues 'Chamber' with a thrill-ride vibe."
- Phil. Daily Inquirer
"More comedy, more perils, more special effects... it outdoes 'Sorcerer's Stone' in all aspects."
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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	2 DIE ANOTHER DAY	DIE ANOTHER DAY 10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	DIE ANOTHER DAY 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50, 11:40	2 DIE ANOTHER DAY
DIE ANOTHER DAY	DIE ANOTHER DAY 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40	SONGBIRD SINGS - REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 1:30, 4:50, 8:10, 11:30	3 DIE ANOTHER DAY
DIE ANOTHER DAY	THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST		DIE ANOTHER DAY 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55	4 DIE ANOTHER DAY
	5 BAHID		DIE ANOTHER DAY 10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
	DIE ANOTHER DAY			
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Alabang Center Cebu
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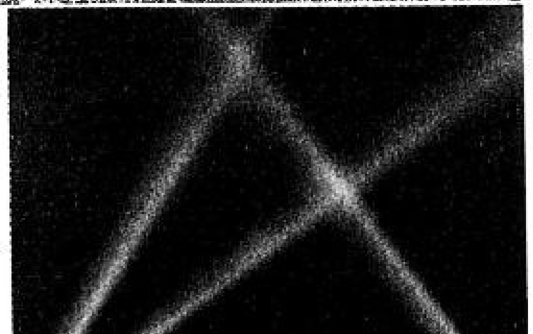
Dec. 13 at 9 pm; Dec. 14 at 10 pm; Dec. 15 at 9 pm;
Dec. 21, 22, 27, 28 at 9 pm; and Dec. 30 at 12 mn.



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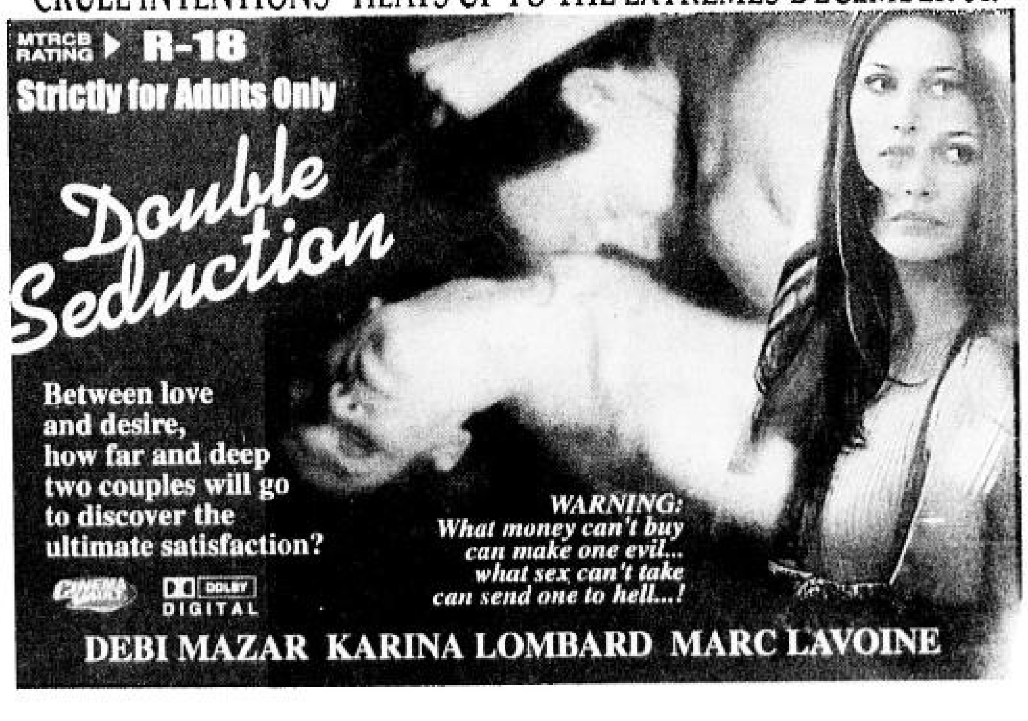
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Club Panoly Resort hosts swimsuit competition of Miss Asia Pacific

THE MUCH-AWAITED swimsuit competition of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2002 was held at the pristine Club Panoly Resort in Boracay last Nov. 17.

Twenty-five lovely candidates competed for the best in swimsuit special award, which allowed the girls to flaunt their great curves and captivating beauty.

At the Kalibo airport, the beauty queens from Asia and the Pacific were welcomed by local Ati-Atihan dancers, with Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores.

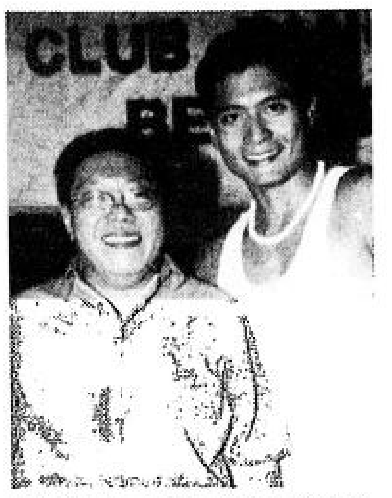
Escorted by jetskis, the delegates rode a boat to Club Panoly Resort, where local school children greeted them and offered shell necklaces and flowers.

In their three-day stay at Club Panoly Resort, the candidates had a great time enjoying the sun, powder-white sand and the famous crystal-clear waters of Boracay.

International actor Paolo Montalban hosted the main event, while TJ Manotoc of GMA 7's "Unang Hirit" was in charge of the fun shoots, where the international beauties played some Pinoy games like "luksong tinik," "patintero" and others.

Judges of the swimsuit competition were James C.T. Lau (president and CEO of Club Panoly Resort), Jóe L. Tulio (Casino Filipino Grand Boulevard Hotel branch manager), Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, Malay Vice Mayor Frolibar S. Bautista, Nitto Victoria (Unilever special projects officer) and Aklan Rep. Billie Caliso.

Winner of the best in swimsuit of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2002 will be announced tomorrow night, during the coronation at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. It will be aired at 9:30 p.m. on GMA 7.


ACTOR Paolo Montalban (right) poses with Club Panoly president and CEO James C.T. Lau.

The Company holds final concert for the year at UP

TO celebrate a landmark year, the country's premiere vocal group, The Company, will hold their last big venue solo concert, "Company 17: Our Story So Far," 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, Nov. 30 at the UP Theater in UP Diliman.

Tickets are available at all SM-Ticketnet outlets.

The year 2002 has been a watermark year for the formidable and multi-awarded vocal sextet.

This year's highlights include The Company's highly successful pan-pacific tour which brought the group to Singapore and Guam. Each performance on the tour garnered a standing ovation.

Moreover, success followed The Company on the airwaves when the group scored another major hit with their original song, "Baka Ikaw" (written by Moy Ortiz and Edith Gallardo) from their "Storybook" album (Pop Art Music/Viva Records).

The group also shot their first music video for that particular song.

Another highlight was the SRO performance at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, The Company's first big venue concert held last June 25.

Another feather on the Company's cap was their beloved and memorable participation at the First International a cappella festival in Singapore last July.

This year, The Company garnered their 36th music industry award when they won best duo or group recording act at the 15th Awit Awards.

"Company 17: Our Story So Far" will be a look back on the group's musical journey.

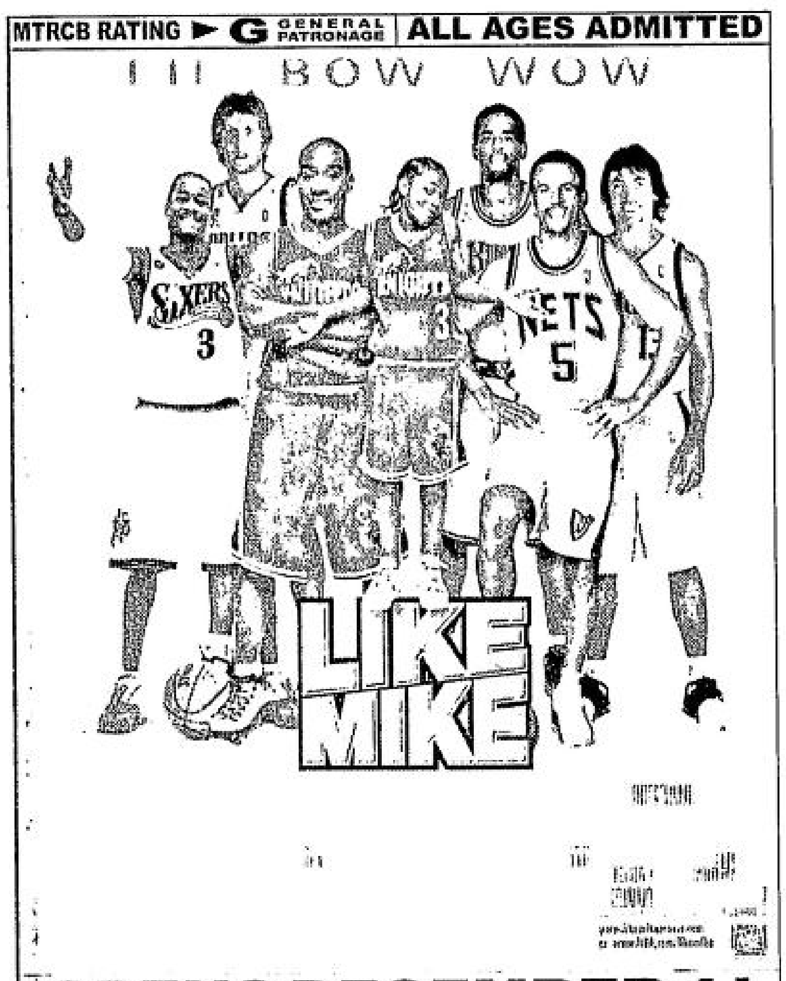
The concert's guests are surprisingly not singers but dancers. Jerswin and Anne of Dance Sport will interpret some of the group's music.

Musical director for the concert is The Company's long-time collaborator, Marc Lopez.

The Company is Sweet Plantado, Annie Quintos, Cecile Bautista, Reuben Laurente, Andre Castillo and Moy Ortiz.

The group is managed by Boy Abunda's Backroom, Inc.

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED



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pelikula ni Yam Laranas
VIVA

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CATHOLIC INITIATIVE FOR ENLIGHTENED MOVIE APPRECIATION(CINEMA)
Manila Standard, Nov. 17, 2002

"A moving canvas..." -EUGENE DE ASIS, People's Journal

"A visually appealing and well-crafted film..." -ALEX BROSAS, Manila Times

"More than good cinematography, Yam Laranas captures the chemistry and sensuality of Rica and Maui onscreen!" -WALDEN BELEN, Manila Bulletin

"It's a movie of unbridled passion. Beautifully done." -CRISPINA BELEN, Manila Bulletin

"Pinaka-daring na movie ni Rica. Wala na syang itinatago! " -DONDON SERMINO, Abante

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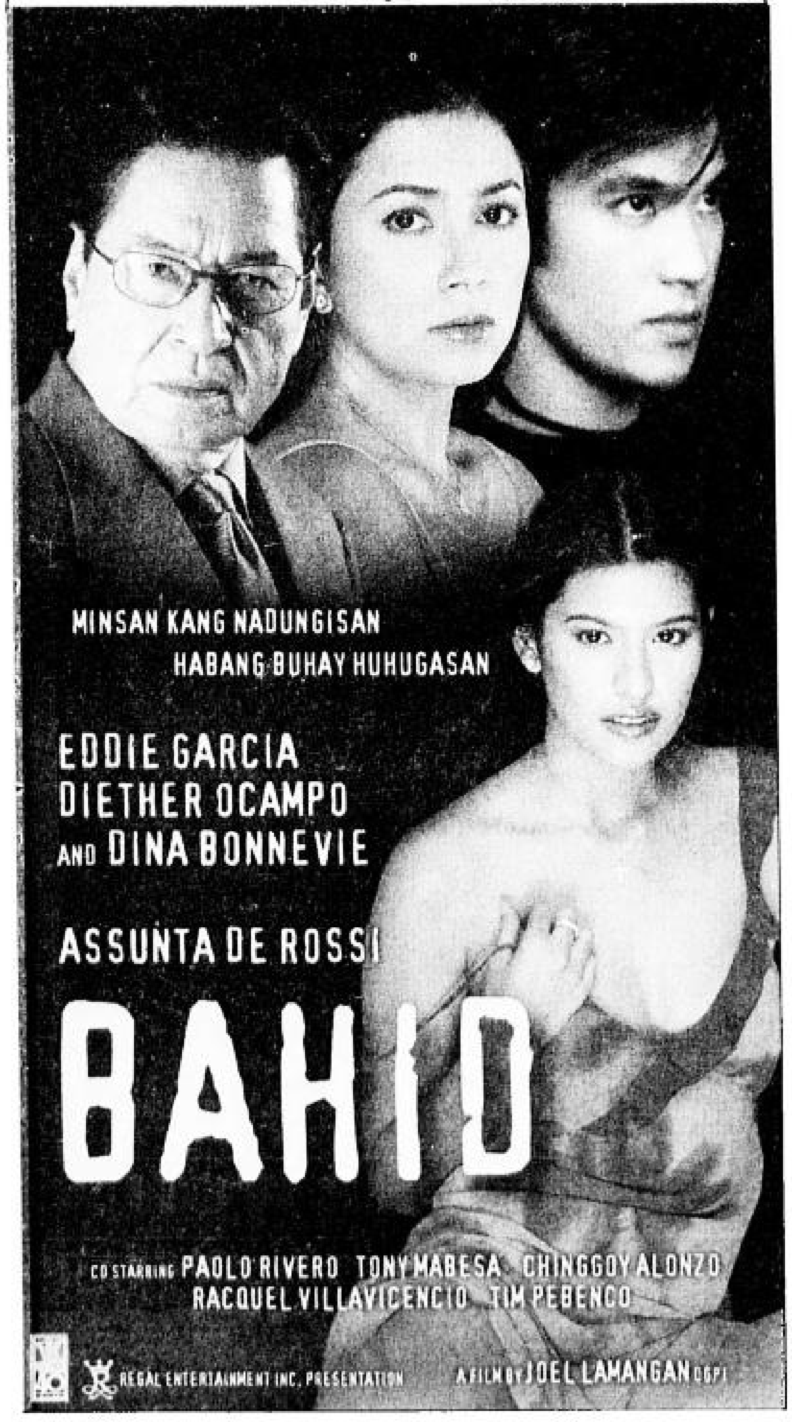

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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	DIE ANOTHER DAY P13 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00	DIE ANOTHER DAY P13 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20

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Ali 3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
Ali 4	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 5	DIE ANOTHER DAY
Ali 6	TRANSPORTER
Ali 7	HIBLA
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	KASIPING
Farmers 2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
ARANETA COLISEUM	
DEC. 1	PBA GAMES
DEC. 4	ANAK LAUNCH
DEC 9 & 11	NCA DERBY
ELEPHANT WORLD	
NOV. 29	10 AM / 3 PM
NOV. 30	10 AM / 1:30 PM / 5 PM
DEC. 1	10 AM / 3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO / BIRTHDAY GIRL
ODEON	DIE ANOTHER DAY
ODEON-2	BIGLANG LIKO / TALAHIB AT ROSAS
ROBEN	KASIPING
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	FREAK / BOURNE IDENTITY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KASIPING
REMAR	DIE ANOTHER DAY
REMAR-2	KASIPING
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HIBLA
B	GISING NA SI ADAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	FRENCH ANIMATION FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHID
CINEMA-2	KASIPING
CINEMA-3	KAILANGAN KITA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAHID
CINEMA-6	BIYAHERA
CINEMA-7	BRAZEN WOMAN
CINEMA-8	GISING NA SI ADAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-12	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-14	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-15	BAHID
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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6.4Has Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589, 09175372340

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO
BNewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.618M 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

P2.8M 3BR 3TB 15mins Ortigas 5315426 • 0917-8912363

QUEZON CITY

980T only 260m² nr Rbinson SM Fview 4174368; 09206022995

RIZAL

★ RUSH SALE★
P2.3M Antipolo Subd 240m²
w/grotto bar tub & furnitures
★CLEAN TITLE★
Direct buyer only! 6875401
0917-4574040/ 0917-9113768

CAVITE

★DASMA BUNGALOW la88 fa32 PAGIBIG 4104577

LAGUNA

Hse & Lot Gat 09165919883

STA ROSA 3T/mo T 9390299

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 1.6M
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

MANILA

250 sqm 5Door Townhse Near U.S.T. 0917-4149898

SN ANDRES MLA
NR SSHIWAY Bnew
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/maid
P2.745M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Nr. SM Megamall P1.9M Neg. Loft Type 2BR 2TB 57.5m² • 531-12-35
0917-5332344 Owner Leaving

WACK-WACK CONDOS
534-6610 • Jojo

PARANAQUE

SUCAT 3BR 3TB 820-4520

PASIG

2BR Crisanta Tower Near Ultra Call 0917-4149898

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Fernandina 88 100sqm 5M 3br 2tb FF • 0917-2429078

★METRO GREEN VILLE la60 fa50 amenities 4104577

Milen Bldg.A 1.4M 4538746

Nr Ateneo P3M 09164339473

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

RSG
Panapaan I, Bacoor, Cavite
RFO
30% D/P in easy installment, as low as
*7,400.00+/- a month
*based on 15 years loan
BPI-Family Bank Housing Loan Program

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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P1.3M-UP EASY TERMS
ONLY 100T TO MOVE IN
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RIZAL

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P 1.6-7M 2-5BR 20%DP or P12T LA150-250SQM nr La Salle /Assumption • 0917-831-3226

VARIED AREAS

AYALA Projects
- AYALA HILLSIDE (Q.C.)
  Subdivision lots w/in golf course
- ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE
  RFO, 5 YRS w/o interest
- ONE LEGAZPI PARK
  Near Greenbelt & Glorietta
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  Free Golf Share per Lot!
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  As low as 16T monthly

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#0917-8435382

QUEZON CITY

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LOT

MANILA

Castanos Sampaloc 330m² T-9356342/0917-8122984

QUEZON CITY

★AMPARO 30m²@P2500 nr SM Lagro 4104577

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choise lots w/ view
VISTA VERDE 2sty conc P4.2M 929-1832 • 426-5650

RIZAL

76.5m² San Mateo 948-6922

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² nego w/fruit trees0916-3741571

★Various Lot frm Subic 2 Sta. Cruz, Zambales pl. 09197437410

OTHER PROVINCIAL

TAGAYTAY LOT 500/1000SM NR. MALL 8436214/8313427

BATANGAS

•LIPA FARM 09164339473

CAVITE

Canyon Woods Lots
Tagaytay • 534-6610 • Jojo

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

GUEVENTHOMES
2 BR T/House
own Carport
ATTIC provision
near MALL
call: RSG Sales
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531-0390/95
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CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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1st Class COMM.-OFFICE RES'L CONDO
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FOR SALE OR LEASE
NEAR ATENEO • UP • MIRIAM • KOSTKA • PSBA • NCBA
1st CLASS AMENITIES
R-Top S. Pool, Gym, Sauna & Etc.
W/ X'LENT VIEW 360°
MOVE-IN FOR ONLY 10% DP
TO SEE... IS TO BELIEVE
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TEL# 913-5223/921-4883 922-4464/913-7632

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park Estate & Garden LOT 363-3080 Tess

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m² nego, w/fruit trees 047-9134120

RESORT

ZAMBALES,Develop Undev 0919-3279260

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LAS PINAS

Philam Vill 27 Davao Street New 2Sty 4BR 3TB 2Car Grg w/ Maids Room & TB 40T 8716775

PASIG

Hse 4 Rent 3BR & 2TB w/Carport Call Mrs Cely 713-1859

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Nr Munoz Market Edsa 3br2tb P13500/mo. 414-5596 Neth

MAKATI

2BR Mkt P8200mo 8388487

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For Lease
Rizal Tower
Rockwell Makati
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BRAND NEW STUDIO
very clean w/security guard impressive lobby w/ elevator P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St Mkti nr Buendia Call Rose
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Full Serviced Residences
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RIVERSIDE TOWNHOMES nr Ever Gotesco & SR Price Call Liezel 421-3785/86

SAN JUAN

G'HILLS 1BR 5268048

VARIED AREAS

Condo QC / Rm Mktl Area 8156172

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

PRIME COMMERCIAL FOR RENT QUEZON CITY
East Ave. Beside SSS
Vacant Lot 2,952 sq.m.
Frontage - 21 Meters
Ideal for Retail Arcade
Development Tenants Available
Rent P150/Sq.M./Month
Long Term Lease
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APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

163 BRIONES 7 AVE 3665197 2.8T

LAS PINAS

2BR Nr UPHR T8743395

MANILA

5 Units Apt. Sta. Mesa U/D 7154506

Studio Fully Furn Malate nr DLSU ST. SCHO, PGH, PWU 523-5465

PARANAQUE

2BR MNWLK #5275941/5241365

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

Sikatuna 1BR P5T 9287728

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Warehouse • 0917-6939550

ROOM & BOARD

Twin/Triple Sharing w/ A/C TB nr DLSU, ST.SCHO, PWU 523-5465

BUSINESS RENTAL

OFFICE SHOP or RESIDENCE Bo. Kapitolyo 0917-4149898

PRIME OFC CONCRETE BLDG AVENIDA NR RAON T7356516

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

BMW 316i 96 Model 680T Neg • 0917-2429078

BMW 320I
1997 First Owner
Silver Full Auto
750T call 434-1809

MERCEDES

MB E320'94, A/T SUNROOF MINT GREEN CALL: 3656149

MITSUBISHI

'96LncrEL 182T / '92Toyota CrlaXE 157T 09177872630

MIT PAJERO '00 A/T WHITE CALL: 3656149

NISSAN

4WD VANET DSL 9267433

TOYOTA

96FX w/ comp. accessories 948-6922 / 09194743688

Lite Ace 93 P195T 9132701

OTHER CAR BRANDS

★ IMPORTED VAN★
MB100D•Pregio•Topic Grace•H100 360-9523

SPECIAL CARS

PAJERO VANETTE TROOPER TOWN-HI ACE SAFARI SURF DELICA ESTIMA MU TERRANO PRADO ESCUDO SUZUKI ELF CANTER ETC A1 w/warranty 9126976 09178342020 GLEN

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

SPECIAL CARS

TROOPER PAJERO VANETTE SAFARI SURF HI-TOWN ACE TERRANO MU DELICA ESTIMA PRADO ESCUDO SUZUKI ELF CANTER ETC STREETMASTER 2179 TAFT AVE NR CARTIMAR

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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NEW MODEL ALL BRANDS
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L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

MB100 Hiace Pregio 9483535

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

TOYCO-SELF DRIVE OR W/ DRIVER CAR/VAN 8006595

URVAN, MB CAR 937-02-71

VAN 4 RENT 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

CONSTRUNCTION MATERIAL

BARBED WIRE
Imported heavily galvanized high tensile steel, long rust free life. In 500m & 250m rolls. Free delivery MM. Ring 682-1063

FURNITURE/ FIXTURES

Queen Anne 6-Seater Dining Set; Lounge chair w/ ottoman (imptd fabric upholstery); regular desk & side table. Call Ding or Annie 9314521 or 09172487406

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ANY ROLEX
and Other Swiss Watches
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0404 • 834-2886

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YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
INVENTORY CLERK

Qualifications:
- ✓ Female (single)
- ✓ 21-25 years old
- ✓ Preferably Accounting graduate
- ✓ Knowledge in computer an advantage
- ✓ New graduates may apply

Send to : U.P. P.O. BOX 15,
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, 1101

- ✓ Comprehensive resumé
- ✓ Records of grades
- ✓ 2x2 or 1-½ x 1-½ ID picture

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

OTHER EQUIPMENT

CARSHOP BLDG EQUIPMENTS & TOOLS in one pls call Remy tel no 032-4203246 cell# 0918-7384345

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

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Trains Dogs Scientifically
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others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Now Hiring:OFFICE CLERK
College grad with experience not over 30yrs old
SALES LADY
High School grad w/exp single 5'2 ht 19-24 yrs old 711-9636/732-1954 Hanna

SECRETARY 9517580-81

Secretary Good in Math Stay in Sta Maria Bul 363-3080 Tess

SECRETARY
Speak Chinese • 363-62-47

Stay-In Secretary • 365-0001

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp Start asap Direct Hire 4752637 JOAN

FASTFOOD COOK FILCHINESE 563 P. FAURA ERMITA 5240526

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

HAIR DRESSER
For SM Megamall 09178398638

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ START ASAP 3390166 DORIS

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ START ASAP CALL 9134470 Direct Hiring Look Zobel

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 6304670 TRIX

HRD PERSONNEL 09173660641 FATIMA

HRD Stf 0919-4639391 Rose

NEED STAFF 8712449 EDRON

OFC PERSONNEL 09203844500 KIM

OFC PERSONNEL 09207692798 FLOR

Ofc Satff 551-2388 Ms. Yna

Ofc Staff / HRD Start ASAP w/ Hi Salary 7279971 Mr. Bean

OFC STAFF 09192535623 MIKE

OFC STAFF COLL GRAD /UGRAD 4370454 VINCENT

OFC STAFF/0920-2376713/BENEDICT

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines
FAX No. (02) 895-8322
Tel Nos. (02) 897-6682
(02) 890-1322

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of ARTISAN CREATIONS INT'L. CORP. with address at Interior, R. Duterte St., Labangon, Cebu City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Export Producer of Furniture, Furnishings and Accessories at a capacity of 3,600 pieces per year and with proposed plant site at (same as in above address) has been officially accepted on 27 November 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 27th day of November 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Deparment

(PDI--Nov. 29, 2002)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Office Staff/09178969388/Abby

PROMO GIRLS 527-1590

SUPERVISOR 09192535623 CRIZEL

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALLING DR MEL MANLUGON CAN SOMEONE TELL ME HOW TO REACH HER FOR CONSULT BETH 09178339040

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Guillermo F. Amoranto has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. #104, Page #22, Book #2, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Jo Paul B. Gatapia of Pasig City (Nov. 15, 22 & 29, 2002)

Notice of Loss PCIBank Stock Cert. #04226 - 60 Shrs. & #26607 - 53 Shrs. Registered under the name of NENITA G. NESSIA

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that the RCBC EPHI Stck Certs. of BELLA PILAR DE LEON #021494; EDGAR ANINIPOT #021315; ISAGANI VALDERAMA #021212 were lost.
(PDI-November 29, 2002)

Notice of Loss of PCIBank Stock Cert. #4214 -122 Shrs. & # 25296 - 118 Shrs. Registered under the name of DAISY S. GOROSIN.

PERSONAL

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late GREGORIO P. CANLAS have executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement last NOV. 12, 2002 w/c deed was entered in the notarial registered TOMAS S. MACA SAET SR. under Doc #291 Page#59 Book# III Series 2002 PDI NOV. 15,22, 29, 02

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ASPIRING MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT BY SINGAPOREAN ENTREPRENEUR TO DEVELOPMENT OF INT'L DISTRIBUTION FRANCHISEE BUSINESS MIN. P15,000 START-UP
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Asstd Copper Alloy Rods & Bars RWMA-II & III size: 13mm - 50 mm diameter asstd special steelD1-D2-D3 Contact: Tipic 2145 Kahilum II Pand.Mla. Tel. No. 5648118-20 Cell. No. 01918-7916832

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

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BUSINESS FOR SALE

LAUNDRY SHOP P 1M
EXISTING CLIENTS MAKATI
LAUNDROKING FRACHISEE
8470398 / 09194299141

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me and show herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands (3x). Sweet Mother, I place this course in Your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems so that I can attain my goal, You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want this short prayer. Thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for Your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. TIPIC

TY HOLY SPIRIT OLC

National Steel Corporation

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS TO BUY

National Steel Corporation is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed proposals, for cash and on "as-is-where-is" basis, the following assets:

ASSET DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1 LOT PASIG PLANT ITEMS (CONSISTING OF BUILDINGS, MACHINERIES AND EQUIPMENT)	Bo. Kalawaan Sur, Pasig City

Terms and conditions of the sale are available at National Steel Corporation, Tel. No. (02) 752-4494 to 98.

Deadline for the submission of proposals will be on Wednesday, at 2 PM, Dec. 4, 2002, addressed to:

Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion
Liquidator, National Steel Corporation
Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center Building
141 Sedeño St. cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

A performance bond amounting to at least ten percent (10%) of the price offer by way of cash, manager's or cashier's check is required to be submitted to the Makati Finance Cashier. NSC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any formality found therein, and to accept such proposals as may be considered most advantageous to its interest.

(PDI — Nov. 24 & 29, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue Quezon City 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting bidders for one (1) year contract for the following services:

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
1. Janitorial Services	P13,466,588.00	P13,466.58
2. Security Services	11,697,909.00	11,697.90
3. Building Maintenance	8,955,221.90	6,977.60
4. Aircon Maintenance	2,817,461.00	3,408.70
5. Pest Control Services	190,575.00	952.87
6. Laundry Services		1,000.00

Source of Funding: PHC FUNDS

The lists of registration requirements will be issued at Bids & Awards Secretariat (BAC), Purchasing Div., PHC, Basement, MAB, East Ave., Q.C. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on **December 20, 2002** not later than 5:00 PM. For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Div. at 922-05-74.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any or all bids offering any reason to waive any formality or technicality, and to award any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to PHC. The PHC neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the PHC guarantee an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 29, 30 & Dec. 6 & 7, 2002)

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & BID
on the

Printing Job Order of the CCP Calendar of Events from January to April 2003

Prospective bidders may secure Checklist of Pre-Qualification Requirements from Mr. Ed Duque, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or 8321125 loc. 1101. Deadline for submission of requirements is on Tuesday, December 3, 2002 until 5:00 p.m.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that they may incur in participating to the undertaking nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. MARASIGAN
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI--Nov. 29 & Dec. 1, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 60
LUCENA CITY

VICTORIO V. SOLIVEN,
Petitioner,
- versus -

M. CASE NO. 96-94
(LRC CADASTRAL SURVEY OF PAGBILAO

EDGARDO M. DE OCAMPO, CARME MERTO, TERESITA M. NADRES, ELOISA M. NADRES, BERNABE M. NADRES, EVELYN M. NADRES, VIOLETA M. NADRES, JOSELITO M. NADRES, ROSALINDA SOTOMAYOR, ALEXANDER M. SOTOMAYOR, MARIETA M. BERROYA, JOSEFINA M. BERROYA, ARLENE M. BERROYA, CERESMELBA MERTO, FLORENCIA MERTO, GERARDITO MERTO, ARNOLD MERTO, NISA MERTO AND ANTHONY CHARLES D'BAYAN,

INCUMBENT REGISTER OF DEEDS, PROVINCE OF QUEZON,
Respondents.
x ---------------------------------- x

AMENDED PETITION

COMES NOW, the petitioner through counsel and respectfully alleges:

1. That petitioner **VICTORIO V. SOLIVEN**, is of legal age, Filipino, married to Purita R. Soliven, and with offices at 3rd Floor, V.V. Soliven Bldg. I, EDSA, San Juan, Metro Manila;
2. The respondents are:

a) **EDGARDO M. DE OCAMPO**, married to Erlinda Bermudez;
CARMEN MERTO, widow,
TERESITA M. NADRES, married to Atty. Leon Badoza;
ELOISA M. NADRES, single
BERNABE M. NADRES, married to Dra. Severina Cabuyao;
EVELYN M. NADRES, single
VIOLETA M. NADRES, married to Arturo Panganiban;
JOSELITO M. NADRES, single
ROSALINDA SOTOMAYOR, married to Dionisio Decusar;
ALEXANDER M. SOTOMAYOR, married to Isabel Miran;
MARIETA M. BERROYA, married to Jose Caballero;
JOSEFINA M. BERROYA, married to Roger Rich;
ARLENE M. BERROYA, single
CERESMELBA MERTO, married to Degracias D. Nayan;
FLORENCIA MERTO, married to Augusto Arciga;
GERARDITO MERTO, married to Ofelia Urtal'
ARNOLD MERTO, married to Julieta Gagulingan; and
NISA MERTO, married to Alfredo Dizon;

the first and 2nd above named being residents of Pagbilao, Quezon and the rest are residents of Tayabas, Quezon and are all of legal age and Filipinos;

b) **ANTHONY CHARLES D'BAYAN**, married, of legal age, Filipino and residing at Unit D Christinville Townhouse Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque, Metro Manila; and
c) Incumbent **REGISTER OF DEEDS**, Province of Quezon, with offices at the Provincial Capitol, Lucena City.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

3. That on or about August 11, 1995, petrion and private respondents named in par. 2(a), above, (through their attorney-in-fact) entered into an Agreement for the sale of the parcels of land registered jointly in the names of all said respondents and covered by TCT No. T-281537 (area – 128,588 sq.m.) T-281538 (area – 19,382 sq.m.) T-281539 (area – 28,422 sq.m.), T-281540 and T-301184 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Quezon, under the terms and conditions stated therein, copy of which is hereto attached as Annex "A", the authority of said attorney-in-fact being shown in the General Power of Attorney dated June 10, 1993, Doc. No. 14, Page No. 3, Book No. IV, Series of 1993, of Notary Public for Manila Jose T. Constantino executed by the said register owners in favor of Alexander Merto Sotomayor, a xerox copy of which is hereto attached as Annex "B", and the Special Power of Attorney dated May 9, 1995, executed by Alexander M. Sotomayor in favor of respondent Anthony Charles D'Bayan, Doc. No. 302, Page No. 61, Book No. XXIV, Series of 1995 of Notary Public Atty. Marylyn Cacho – Naop (or Nacr), a xerox copy of which is hereto attached as:
Annex "C".

4. That petitioner agreed to the representation of said private respondents' attorney-in-fact not to have said Annex "A" annotated in subject titles so as not to disrupt ongoing documentation of partition of the intestate estate wherein the above titles are included which is expected to be finished momentarily.

5. That petitioner has paid a total of downpayment in the amount of P1,300,000.00 on said Agreement and considering the delay in said partition, it is to the best interest of the parties that Annex "A" be duly annotated in subject titles.

6. That petitioner has had no contact with private respondents' attorney-in-fact for a considerable time.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

7. That the allegation in par. 1 to 6 above are herein reproduced.

8. That through inadvertence, when the Agreement dated August 11, 1995, Annex "A" hereof, was executed, the price agreed upon, which is Fifty Five (P55.00) Pesos per square meter, was not included therein.

9. that in order to show the real agreement between the parties it is necessary that said Agreement be reformed by adding the words — **"at fifty five (P55.00) Pesos per square meter"** — to the last sentence therein to read as follows:

> "That as earlier agreed upon between the parties, the FIRST PARTY is negotiating with the THIRD PARTY which is presently ongoing for the full settlement of the contract price AT FIFTY FIVE (P55.00) PESOS PER SQUARE METER."

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed that:

On the First Cause of Action, that private respondents, through their attorney-in-fact be required to present before the Registry of Deed for the Province of Quezon the owner's duplicate copies of TCT Nos. 281537, 281538, 281339, 281579 and 301184 Registry of Deeds for the Province of Quezon in order to have the Agreement dated August 11, 1995, Annex "A" hereof, duly annotated thereon, and, in the event that said duplicate originals are not duly presented, that public respondent be required to cause such annotation on the originals pending submission of said owner's duplicate copies

On the Second Cause of Action, that the Agreement, Annex "A" hereof be reformed to have the last proviso read as follows:

> "That as earlier agreed upon between the parties the FIRST PARTY is negotiating with the THIRD PARTY which is presently ongoing for the full settlement of the contract price at **FIFTY FIVE (P55.00) Pesos per square meter.**"

Petitioner further prays for such other relief, just and proper in the premises.
San Juan, Metro Manila, June 20, 1997.

(Sgd.) **RENE A. DIOKNO**
Counsel for Petitioner
3rd Floor, VV Soliven Bldg. I,
EDSA, San Juan, Metro Manila
IBP OR No. 338830; 1-4-93
Batangas Chapter

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING

I, **VICTORIO V. SOLIVEN,** of legal age, married with office at 3rd Floor, V.V. Soliven Bldg. I, EDSA, San Juan, Metro Manila after having been duly sworn, depose and say:

That I am the petitioner and I know the contents of the above Petition to be true of my own knowledge and, further, I certify that there is no pending case of the same nature in any court of laws, administrative or quasi-judicial body and that I will inform this Court within five (5) days if I learn of any.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO V. SOLIVEN
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 19th day of June 1997; affiant exhibit to me his CTC No 14143411-D issued on 3-22-98 at Cainta.
(Sgd.) MOSIB A. BUBONG, Notary Public; Until December 31, 1997; PTR No. 8323049 issued 1-8-97; Issued No. Quezon City

Doc. No. 1039; Page No.; 210; Book No. II; Series of 1997

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JOB MARKET

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PNOC
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PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNPC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD,
FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc. 5285

INVITATION FOR BID

1. PNOC — Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,460,000,000.00 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Projects and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY** of the following:

   100 Joints 5" diameter Spiral Heavy Weight Drill Pipe under FGK-20822

   Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o **Mr. Raffy S. Teylan**, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 893-1320 Loc. 5285, Fax No. (632) 840-1834.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting **November 26, 2002**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **one hundred pesos (PHP100.00) Philippine Currency for each set of tender documents**.
6. For purposes of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **December 03, 2002, at 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.
7. The estimated date of awards is on **January 15, 2003.**
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC. The bids must be delivered to the above address on or before **2:00 PM of December 20, 2002**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**
9. PNOC-EDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
10. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) SERGIO ANTONIO F. APOSTOL
Chairman/President/C.E.O.

(PDI – Nov. 29, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FIELD OPERATIONS
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT NO. 1
ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
City of San Fernando, La Union
PHIC Accredited Healthcare Provider

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The **Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC)** hereby invites all interested suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

A. Supply and delivery of various Drugs and Medicines, Medical/Surgical supplies, Laboratory reagents & supplies, X-ray, Dental, Linen, Office, Laundry and Housekeeping supplies for the period **January to December 2003.**

A pre-bidding conference with issuance of Bid documents will be held on **December 9, 2002 at 9:00 AM** at the **ITRMC Conference Room**, at which same venue the submission and opening of bids will be held on **December 16, 2002.**

Only pre-qualified bidders will be issued bid documents and allowed to participate in the bidding upon payments of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00).**

For further inquiries please contact (072) 888-58-64.

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER F. ALVIAR, MD, FPOGS**
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 22 & 29, 2002)

PHIVIDEC INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

The **Government of the Republic of the Philippines** has received an ODA Loan amounting to **¥8.266 B** from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), under the Special Yen Loan Package, for the development of the new Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT), Phase 1, Stage 1 in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental with PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA) as the Implementing Agency.

A government owned and controlled corporation organized in 1974, PIA is empowered under Presidential Decree 538 "to construct, operate, maintain or otherwise grant the use of any or all port facilities and terminal services."

Construction of the port commenced on 20 February 2002 and is due for completion by January 2004, and, consequently will be operational by that time. PIA intends to privatize the management and operations of MCT under a twenty (20)-year Lease Contract.

PIA, therefore, invites eligible applicants to submit sealed Applications to Pre-qualify to the office of :

PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority
Attention : Engr. Gabriel B. Evangelista
Administrator
Address : PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate
Sta. Cruz, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental
Philippines 9001
Tel. Nos. : +6388-5670260 / 8901109
+638822-740369 / 740245
Facsimile : +6388-5670-194
E-mail : pia_mo@sni.ph
Website : www.phividecauthority.com.ph

The Pre-qualification Documents (Volume I), the Bid and Contract Documents (Volume II) and the Annexes thereof (Volume III) may be obtained from the abovementioned office between **December 2 to 20, 2002** upon submission of a letter of request marked ***"Request for Pre-qualification and Bid Documents for the Management and Operations of Mindanao Container Terminal."*** PIA will promptly issue the documents to the authorized representatives(s) of the Applicant upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US$150.00.**

Acceptance of the Applications will be until 12:00 noon of **14 February 2003** and will be subsequently opened in the presence of the Applicant's authorized representative at 1:00 p.m. on the same date at the **PIA Conference Room.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid meeting for Pre-qualified Applicants will be conducted at the MCT site in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental on **07 April 2003 at 1:00 p.m.**

(Sgd.) Engr. **GABRIEL B. EVANGELISTA**
Administrator

(PDI — Nov. 22 & 29, 2002)

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Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue Cor. EDSA,
Mandaluyong City, 1501
P.O. Box 4061, Manila / Tel: 722-1142 to 99 /
FAX # 722-1199

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 16
SERIES OF 2002

TO ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES
SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS OF CYPRUS PRINCIPALS/ EMPLOYERS BY THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS LABOR OFFICE (POLO) AND REGISTRATION / PROCESSING OF DOCUMENTS AT POEA

Pursuant to the thrust of the Administration to streamline documentary requirements for the recruitment and deployment of overseas Filipino workers and to ensure the protection of workers bound for Cyprus, the following guidelines are hereby issued:

I. **Requirements for the Verification of Employer Documents by the POLO**

The following documents shall be submitted by the principal / employer of household and non-household workers to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Tel-Aviv, Israel, for the purpose of verification of the principal.

1. Valid business license of the Cypriot manpower Agency
2. Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued in favor of the Philippine agency.
3. Manpower request indicating the basic salary and number of workers needed
4. Master employment contract
5. Cypriot Manpower Agency Information Sheet

II. **Requirements for Registration of Principals / Employers at the POEA**

1. Valid business license of the Cypriot manpower Agency
2. Verified Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued in favor of the Philippine agency
3. Verified manpower request indicating the positions, basic salary and number of workers needed. The manpower request for non-household workers shall also indicate the direct employers.
4. Verified Master employment contract

III. **Requirements for the Issuance of the Overseas Employment Certificate by the POEA.**

1. Request for Processing
2. Individual employment contract (based on the verified master employment contract)
3. Worker's information sheet

For immediate implementation.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

(PDI - Nov. 29, 2002)

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We remember
our Dad, our beloved mentor.

DOMINGO M. GUEVARA

(January 02, 1909 - November 29, 1999)

He left us three years ago to go back to his Creator
and to join his loving wife, **Carmen**
We kindly request his friends, relatives and all readers to pray
for the eternal rejoicing of his soul
as we offer Holy Masses at the following places:

Guevent Multi-Purpose, Mandaluyong City	4:30 pm
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	7:15 am
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	6:30 am
Cardinal Santos Medical Center Chapel, San Juan	5:15 pm
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Mandaluyong City	7:00 pm
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	6:00 pm
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of Edsa) Ortigas Ave., Q.C.	12:15 nn
Center for Peace Asia Foundation, Inc. Mandaluyong City	12:15 nn
Holy Redeemer Parish, Malac cor. Inaman St., Masambong, Q.C.	6:00 pm
Dr. Victor R. Potanciano Medical Center Chapel, EDSA, Mandaluyong	12:15 nn

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ATTY. CASIMERO S. PE

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 28, 2002
at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Pilar Benjamin**; children **Celinda & Renen de Guia, Cliff**; grandsons, **Bogie & Enzo**; brothers & sisters **Evangeline, Pina, Senen, Florido, Wilfrido** request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 8:30 a.m. service.

On the 4th Death Anniversary of

Jose P. Dans, Jr.

September 26, 1928 - November 29, 1998

Please say a prayer for our dearest ***Lolo Totoy****.*

Memorial Masses will be offered at 6:00 PM
at the following churches:

Sacred Heart Parish
Kamuning, Q.C.
Good Shepherd Parish
Fairview, Q.C.
Church of the Holy Sacrifice
UP Diliman
Santuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati
St. John the Baptist Parish
Pinaglabanan, San Juan
St. Paul's Parish
Timog Ave., Q.C.
Sta. Maria Della Strada
Katipunan Ave., Q.C.
Mount Carmel Church
New Manila, Q.C.
Lourdes Church
Kanlaon St., Q.C.
Sto. Domingo Church
Quezon Ave., Q.C.

"Rest, victor, sleep and rest
You have given your very best..."

NELLIE VALBUENA MALABANAN

of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro & Caloocan City
passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on November 27, 2002 at the age of 64.

Her loving husband **Fiscal Teodoro P. Malabanan** (deceased); children **Teddy & Annie, Bobby & Beth, Cecile & Bingbong, Pauline & Edward**; grandchildren, **Ivan, Mikey, Trisha, Fourth, Bea and Raphael**; and nephew **JM**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel K, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Her remains will be transferred to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish between 7th & 8th Ave., Nadurata St., Caloocan City on December 01, 2002 at 9:00 a.m., Sunday.

Interment will follow after 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park.

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Telefax 651-0756
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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
FRANCISCO DE VERA, SR.	Nov. 29	10.00 AM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park, Calamba City	Purok 3, EM's Bo. Camp Vicente Lim Canlubang, Laguna

www.holygardens.com

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

SALVADOR P. BANATAO

who died on November 13, 2002

Wife, **Rosita P. Banatao**

Sister, **Petra Guzman**

Children:
Rodolfo & Lina Banatao
Diosdado & Maria Banatao
Vicente & Phoebe Banatao
Roque & Fenegunda Irisari

Grandchildren:
Jonathan & Yvette Latonio, Dennis & Yvonne Villanueva, Salvadore & Marites Banatao, Rodolfo, Jr. & Jean Banatao

Diosdado Rey & Gabrielle Allysa Banatao, Desi Roman Banatao & Tala Maria Banatao

Vincent & Gong Banatao, Rheah Banatao

Maria Fe & Maria Ana Irisari

Great grandchildren:
Isabelle Maria Banatao, Daniel Joz Latonio, Jose Paolo Villanueva and Andrea Banatao

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."
Proverbs 31: 28-29

BIENVENIDA YAP PETINES

Peacefully joined our Creator on November 27, 2002
at the age of 83.

Her bereaved husband, **Romy**, children **Bob** & **Nora**, **Nenita** & **Roland**, **Dodo** & **Leny**, **Nel** & **Ching**, **Helen** & **Red**, **Ling** & **Sol**, **My** & **Arlyn**, **Nancy** & **Charles**, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 52 Times Street, Quezon City. There will be Mass and prayer worship at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. every evening, respectively. Interment will take place on December 1, 2002 at the Petines family estate at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass to be held at the Petines residence.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

In Loving Memory on the
Tenth Death Anniversary of

TEODORO M. HENARES

Carmen, his widow, and his family:

Teddy & Paching
Patty & Bogie
Tony
Benjie & Angie
Bobby & Luz
Marie & Ping
Jingle & Andi
Monchie & Aidge

and his brothers, sister, and in-laws
Larry, Norma & Duke, Mike & Mila

Invite you to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.
Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today:

Christ the King Parish, *Green Meadows*	7:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills East*	6:15 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, *Ayala Alabang*	6:30 p.m:
St. Jerome Emiliana Parish, *Ayala Alabang*	12:15 nn.
St. Ferdinand Cathedral, *Lucena City*	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Liguori, *Magallanes Village*	6:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

It was like each raindrop turned into dazzling little lights with his laughter...
With the passing time, we have not for a single moment, forgotten...

Catalino "Nonoy" A. Ortiz

of Butuan City & Balayan, Batangas

Who peacefully joined his Creator on November 29, 1990

In loving memory of his **Twelfth Death Anniversary**; We, his family, wife **Maria Estelle Garcia - Ortiz**, and children and all who knew him in life, request pious readers to join us in remembering him in our prayers. Holy Masses will be offered at the following:

ORTIZ Family Mausoleum, Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora	10:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Church, Balayan, Batangas	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Parish, Libertad, Butuan City	6:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Church, Aurora Blvd., QC	6:15 a.m.
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, Proj. 4, QC	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Clara Monastery, Katipunan Avenue, QC	6:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish	6:30 a.m.
Madonna dela Strada, La Vista, Katipunan, QC	6:00 p.m.
Sto. Niño de Paz, Greenbelt Chapel, Makati City	7:15 a.m.
Our Lady of EDSA Shrine, Ortigas Avenue, QC	6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Church, Glendale California, USA	8:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Church, Maple Place, Keyport, New Jersey, USA	8:00 a.m.
Shrine of Immaculate Conception, Washington DC, USA	8:00 a.m.

"My soul finds rest in God alone; from HIM comes my salvation." Psalm 62:2

ANTONIO ESTACIO ESPELETA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 28, 2002
at the age of 64.

His bereaved wife **Elsa Alviar**; children **Francis, Marc** and **Marie Therese**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Alfredo** (+) and **Ester** (+), **Vidal Jr.** and **Melinda**; mother-in-law **Fortunata S. Alviar**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Jesus the Divine Healer Parish, Tahanan Village, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 1, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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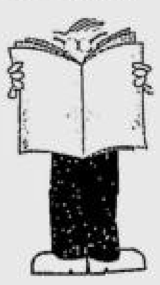

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Republic of the Philippines
CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES
MODERNIZATION (COCAFM)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (CACAFM) invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of one (1) unit of TOYOTA HI-ACE GRANDIA (monotone) not later than 3:00 p.m. on December 04, 2002.

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from the said office located at Room 515, Philippine Senate, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City upon registration and payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00).

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Photo copies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (Original Copies to be shown for authentication purposes). Other pre-requisite may be obtained at the said office.

All bids submitted shall be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders' representatives at 9:00 a.m. on December 5, 2002. Late bids will not be accepted.

This office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA L. AGCOPRA
OIC-Executive Director, COCAFM
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 29 & Dec. 3, 2002)

PMA accepts CPM applicants

THE Philippine Marketing Association announces that applications are now being accepted for the Certified Professional Marketer (Asia Pacific) qualifying examinations to be held in March 2003 in Manila.

The deadline for filing application is Dec. 10.

The examinations are open to all marketing executives with any bachelor's degree and at least five years marketing work experience.

The subjects covered in the examinations are marketing research, marketing communications, marketing strategy, Asia Pacific Marketing Management.

Applicants have the options of taking all the five subjects or less in one seating.

The examinations are given twice a year, March and September, by the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation of which the PMA is founding member.

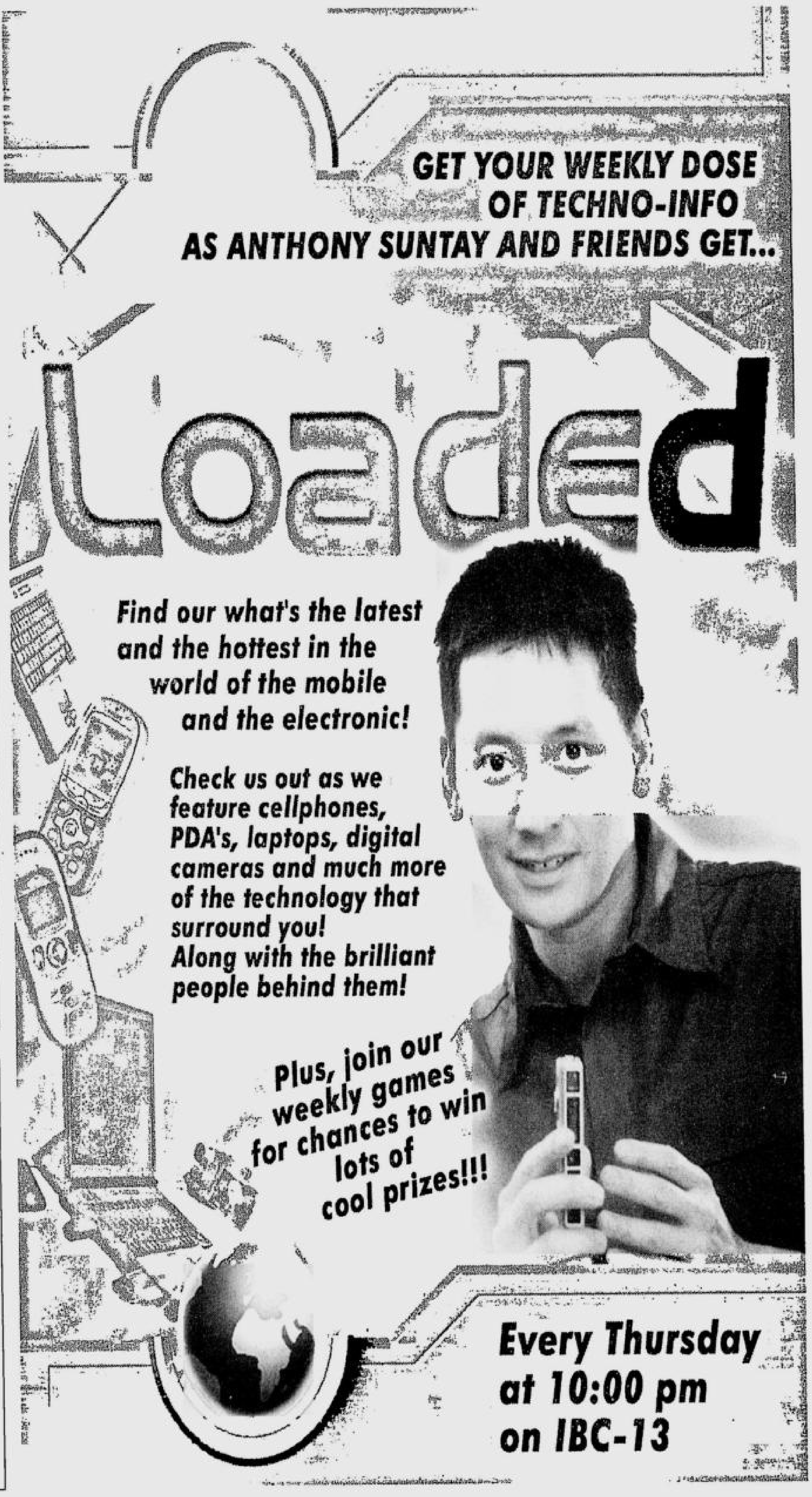
The CPM (Asia Pacific) is the formal endorsement of professional status for marketing executives who have already attained a competent level of marketing in the Asia Pacific region.

For further details, call Prof. Rene Esguerra of tel.: 892-3144; 813-0466 Fax: 892-3261 and e-mail: pma@philonline.com.

MOM'S fashion show

THE MOTHER'S Organization of Marist School (MOMS) in coordination with the Marist School Parent-Teacher's Association (MSPTA) will present at 6 PM on November 30, 2002 a fund-raising fashion/variety show ''RAMPAMILYA 2002'' in celebration of the international year of the family next year. This project is for the benefit of the school's musicians, athletes and night school students. Venue will be at Marist School (Marikina City) High School Gym. The show will be participated in by the selected Marist students, teachers, parents and with special participation of Alex Pigao, the Mega Young Designer of the Year 2002. Tickets to the show are affordably priced at P100 and P200. For ticket reservations, please call 933-9822.

On the same day, there will be a Pre-Christmas Bazaar and Food Booth from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The ribbon-cutting/opening ceremonies will be graced by Hon. Vice-Mayor Marion Andres. On top of this, the Marist School Alumni Association will sponsor a Kite Making/Kite Flying session at 1-4 p.m. at the school oval. There will also be a lantern parade for Years 5 & 6 students at 2-4 p.m., Marist Grounds, where prizes await the best lanterns.



SB Corporation: Revving up the economy through assistance to SMEs

SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATION

By Joel V. Nigos

SB Corporation Chairperson Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo

> 'It is very important that SMEs get the financial assistance they need because they are considered a major fuel of our economy aside from being the biggest employment generator'

ONE notable accomplishment SB Corp. speaks of after the merger is it has more than doubled the credit assistance it extended to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

The Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) was consolidated with the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (GFSME) in Nov. 16, 2001. The surviving entity is now called SB Corp. The consolidation of the resources and operations of the two institutions was a way of rationalizing the credit guarantee system for SMEs. With the merger, it has provided SB Corporation a better focused approach to assisting SMEs in their various lending and guarantee needs.

Chairperson Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo reported that as of October 2001, SB Corporation has facilitated a total of roughly P900 million in loans and guarantees to SMEs. This uptake can be largely attributed to the renewed dynamism of the company brought about by the merger.

"President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sees the potentials of the SMEs, Secretary Mar Roxas of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is also hopeful of the sector, and the new management team of SB Corporation is working hard to push the corporation into greater heights. All these are enabling us to get out there and respond to the needs of our clientele by continuously designing and implementing new credit programs that are needed for the current situations. It is very important that SMEs get the financial assistance they need because they are considered a major fuel of our economy aside from being the biggest employment generator. When you assist SMEs, you are revving up the domestic economy and pushing it to a higher level of growth," Alonzo relates.

Benel P. Lagua, president and chief operating officer of SB Corporation confirms that last year had been very fruitful for the reorganized institution. "We have achieved some of our intended objectives in the merger. For one, we saved on some administrative costs due to the rationalization of our operations. We were also able to streamline the product lines of SB Corporation and put more focus to the products where we are sustainable and productive, and we were able to design new credit programs which we know best addresses the needs of the SMEs," he says.

"Ninety percent of the businesses in the country are SMEs. They are the backbone of our economy. In situations where the international market is not doing well, we need to have a very strong domestic economy to make sure that we are able to move forward. The way to do that is to assist the SMEs," Lagua informs.

Accomplishments

Currently, SB Corporation has 26 accredited banks. Accredited are 12 expanded KBs/commercial banks, nine rural banks, four thrift banks and one leasing company.

Guarantee approvals for the period Jan. 1-Oct. 31, 2002 amounted to P100.86 million for thirty-three (33) accounts under the Guarantee for Enterprises in Manufacturing and Services (GEMS) and Guarantee Undertaking of Industries in Livelihood Development (GUILD) Programs.

The Guarantee for Enterprises in Manufacturing and Services (GEMS) is a credit guarantee program for SME loans engaged in the manufacturing and services sector and the GUILD is a program implemented in partnership with common interest groups such as cooperatives, NGOs, trade and industry associations. Under the GUILD, the beneficiaries of the credit guarantee system become partners and shareholders in the guarantee fund and mutually share in the benefits and risks in operating it. Combined originations of SBGFC and former GFSME has reached P8,318.106 million for 4,603 accounts.

Under the wholesale lending program, SB Corporation intensified its marketing efforts through the accreditation of selected financial institutions. It has so far granted a total of P1.409 billion worth of credit lines for SME lending through these banks. Some of the major banks which have the big chunk of the credit lines are Planters Development Bank, Philippine Bank of Communications, Metrobank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank, Landbank, Chinabank, among others. Moreover, a total of P90 million credit lines have been granted to micro finance partners such as rural banks, non-government institutions and cooperatives.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo discusses the project, SME Development Plan... YAMAN, with SB Corporation Chairperson Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo.

From Jan. 1-Oct. 31, 2002, a total of P713.7 million were approved under the SME-Funding Access for Short-Term Loans (SME-FAST) and SME Funding for Investments in Regional Markets (SME-FIRM). A total of roughly P12.5 million worth of accounts was approved under the SME Financing Entry Point for Entrepreneurs in Livelihood for Micro-Financing (SME-FEEL) program. Overall wholesale lending approval amounts to P726.2 million over the same period.

Under the retail lending windows, SB Corporation released a total of P50.4 million in direct loans to 11 SME exporters through the SME Financing Reach for Exporters Through Network Development (SME-FRIEND), P61.03 million was released through the SME-Financing for Receivables of Suppliers' Transactions (SME-FIRST), and P7.4 million was lent out through the SME Financing for Organizationally Competent and Excellent Franchise Businesses (SME-FORCE).

A new program launched this year, the Guarantee Incubation for DTI-Endorsed Projects (SME-GUIDE) is designed to promote and support the development of DTI-initiated projects in the regions where the clients' access to banks is constrained. Loans to SME-GUIDE reached to P50.608 million which represents 47 accounts in 23 provinces all over the country. Combined retail and wholesale lending approvals now total to P896 million.

New programs

SB Corporation has also initiated two new programs to operationalize various presidential initiatives. These new programs are the Suppliers' Credit Program and Financing for Enterprise Development of Local Government Units (FEND-LGU). Suppliers' Credit Program complements the project identification process for the P1 million turned over to the LGUs. Under this program, anchor firms in the municipalities are asked to endorse their suppliers for funding either from SB Corporation itself or from the funds turned over to LGUs. The SB Corporation has already coordinated with four anchor firms endorsed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to form part of government's SME suppliers' financing support program. These anchor firms are Amkor Technologies, Intel Technologies, Nestle Philippines and Ford Philippines.

The years to come

Alonzo envisions SB Corporation in the years to come to be more responsive to the needs of the SMEs.

We were created specifically to ensure that SMEs are given loans by the commercial banking systems. So, while our target for this year is to be able to give out P2 billion in financial assistance, five years from now I see our lending to grow geometrically like up to P20 billion," Alonzo says.

"Our programs are not carved in stone. When we find that they are no longer working we will discard or amend them. We will always make sure that our programs respond to the needs of the SMEs. We also have to look at the total picture, to look at the factors that affect SMEs like the quality of their products or services and their management skills," she says.

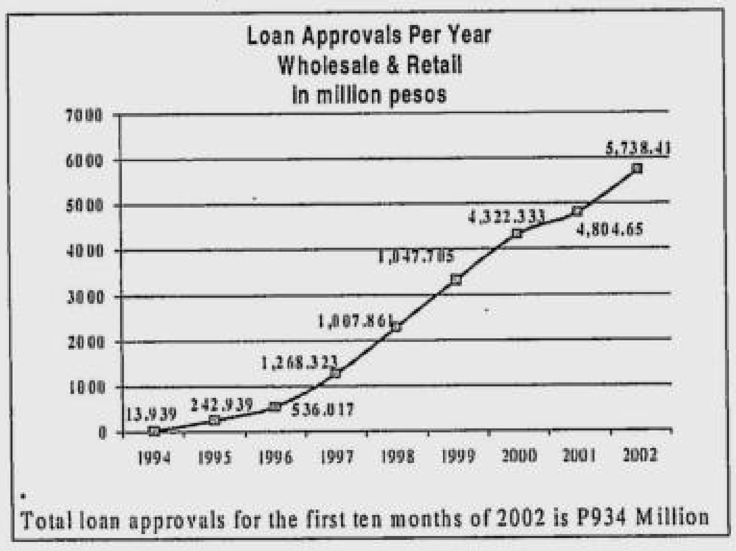
She adds that this picture could be captured through linkages with public or private organizations who are into entrepreneurship training programs, product development, and product design, among others. We will also assist in advocating SME friendly business environment and try to be a *total SME center*," explains Alonzo.

Lagua, on his part, says that SB Corporation will continue to have its three main program lines, with guarantee and wholesale as the flagship programs.

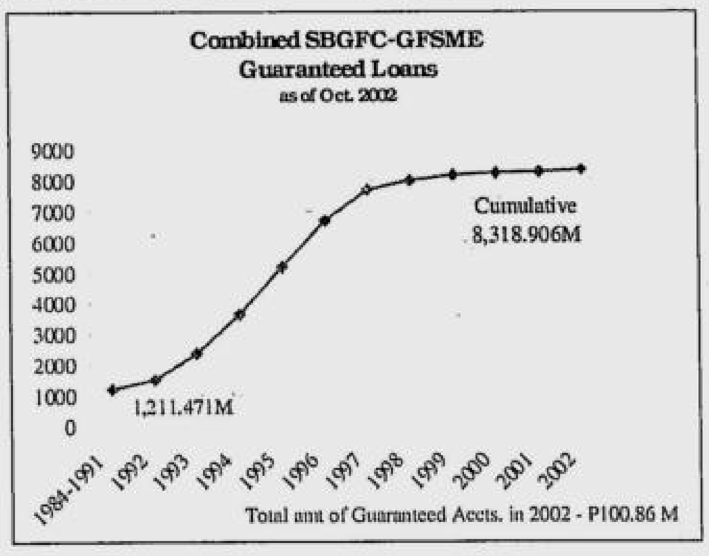
"We will still maintain retail because inevitably there would be gaps. We will exert our effort to fill in the gaps where the banking sector is not willing to open up. What we want to do is to demonstrate to the banking sector that lending to these gaps is sustainable. Hopefully, SMEs would find their way to them once they find that," relates Lagua.

Alonzo and Lagua both see SB Corporation as a major force in SME financing in five years time.

"We see it as an institution that would make a difference in the SME sector. That when you think of SME, you'll think of SB Corporation," ends Alonzo.



Total loan approvals for the first ten months of 2002 is P934 Million



Total amt of Guaranteed Accts. in 2002 - P100.86 M

SQUARE GEM MANUFACTURING

Trekking the road less traveled

By Catherine B. Trumata

HE dared to go where timid souls dare not tread. When everybody else was packing their things and going off to the opposite direction, he remained undaunted. Now after 23 years of courage and hard work, he stands proud reaping the fruits of his decision.

Romeo Teves

Romeo R. Teves, president and owner of Square Gem Manufacturing finished Accountancy in 1973 from the University of the East. After graduation, he was hired by Zuellig Philippines and developed an alliance with a senior officer who was a resident of Bulacan, a province known for garments manufacturing. From him, Teves was introduced to the industry. He learned the trade fast, and in 1979, he was already sub-contracting for an embroidery firm, Ever-Fit Manufacturing. Teves' wife took the business seriously and went full time. Years later in 1985, Square Gem already had three regular clients. *"Noong mga panahong yun, de padyak pa ang mga makina, kaya ang hirap mag-*embroider, *pero dahil sa tiyaga, nakilala rin kami unti-unti,"* Teves enthused.

Carving a name

Indeed, Square Gem was already a well-known name in the garments industry in the '80s. Although clients approached them for sewing needs, they could not accept orders since they were concentrating on embroideries. Expanding was out of the question, since their machines were few and had limited capacity. But what seemed impossible turned inevitable when business survival became the issue. In 1986, Teves resigned from Zuellig to concentrate in the business. He took over for his wife and became its president. At that time, the garments industry was at its peak, with competition everywhere, Square Gem opened its doors to sewing. The move was a leap of faith.

Market

Manned with only 10 employees, Square Gem started sewing infants' and children's wear. *"Lakas ng loob ang lahat, pero nag-aral din kami ng mahusay na pananahi dahil alam naming kailangan naming sumabay,"* Teves said. Design usually came from the clients although they had one resident designer. The response from the market was positive and more new clients started knocking on their doors. Some were referred by friends while some they met in trade fairs. This new direction of Square Gem came as a big boost.

The market had been very good to Square Gem. As though its success in the domestic scene was not enough, Square Gem explored the global market in 1990.

Celebrity International, a US firm became Square Gem's first foreign client. Its manager was a friend of Teves so negotiation was easy. The first order was overwhelming—500 dozens of infants' wear! *"Kinakabahan kami* at that time *kasi* baptism of fire, *pero dahil sa kaibigan ko iyong* manager, *naalalayan kami,"* Teves said.

SB Corporation

Square Gem's entry into the export market went smoothly. Products were delivered on time. Customers were satisfied with the quality. One thing though became a handicap...lack of financing. *"Hindi namin ma-*accept *lahat ng* orders *kasi kulang kami sa puhunan. Hirap kasi kaming bumili ng* materials *na* imported *pa* from Taiwan," Teves revealed.

SQUARE Gem 's production workers: Striving to make every piece of garment a global quality

Entrepreneurial instinct prodded Teves to look for other means. He approached the Foreign Buyers of the Philippines (Fobap), who in turn referred him to SB Corporation for a loan. With Square Gem's impressive background, it was not long before he got a financial assistance under the Transactional Financing Facility. Since then, what followed was a good credit relationship between Square Gem and SB Corporation.

"Dumating ang SB Corporation sa amin sa tamang oras, kasi noong Asian crisis nang 1997, bumagsak ang garments industry, at tinamaan talaga kami. Nag-survive ang Squre Gem dahil sa utang...dahil sa SB, at masaya ako dahil tatlong taon na kaming client ng SB Corporation." Teves added.

Square Gem today

Indeed, Square Gem has withstood the acid tests of the industry. It has remained unfazed by circumstances, and today even when some factories have folded up, Square Gem is in fact thriving.

Aside from its US buyers, Square Gem has two major buyers from France and one in Canada. It has 100 regular workers and a few subcontractors. Asked what could well be the trade secrets of Square Gem, Teves said, *"Mababang presyong sa mataas na kalidad na gawa, at ginawa ko ito sa pamamagitan ng paghahanap ng fabrics na mas mura pero di naman mababa ang quality."*

Square Gem has come full circle. And even when everybody else refers to the garment sector as a "sunset" industry, Teves is ready to challenge this. He believes that the best is yet to come for Square Gem Manufacturing.

CUP bucks DTI accreditation scheme

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CONSUMERS Union of the Philippines will not sign up with the Department of Trade and Industry's accreditation program because officials of the 40-year-old group want to maintain its independence.

CUP president Quirino Marquinez disclosed that CUP's board did not see any need for an accreditation from the trade department, saying the group had been functioning well as a consumer watchdog since 1962.

The group has never been sanctioned by the government since it was formed, Marquinez stressed.

The trade department has issued a new set of guidelines on the accreditation of consumer organizations in the country.

These new guidelines are meant to ensure that only legitimate private sector groups are involved in the trade department's consumer rights advocacy and enforcement campaign.

Under Department Administrative Order No. 10, accredited consumer groups can undertake information campaigns, join the trade department's consultations and report violations of the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. issued the new rules shortly after issuing a warning to consumers against unscrupulous consumer organizations engaging in the unethical practice of handing out citations for best products and services and misrepresenting themselves as being sanctioned by the trade department.

CUP recently held its annual consumer awards project, which cited the best brands in specific categories.

The trade department has complained about the group's use of the phrase "in cooperation with the DTI" without getting prior clearance from the agency.

Marquinez said CUP never claimed it was endorsed by the DTI because there was no specific law that required the group to secure prior endorsement from the department before implementing its projects, such as organizing its seminars, workshops, symposiums and awards.

Marquinez said instead of besmirching the group's reputation, the trade department should take legal steps and press criminal charges against erring consumer groups.

Cristobal countered that if CUP felt alluded to by the trade department's crackdown on "pseudo-consumer groups," then it must be doing something wrong.

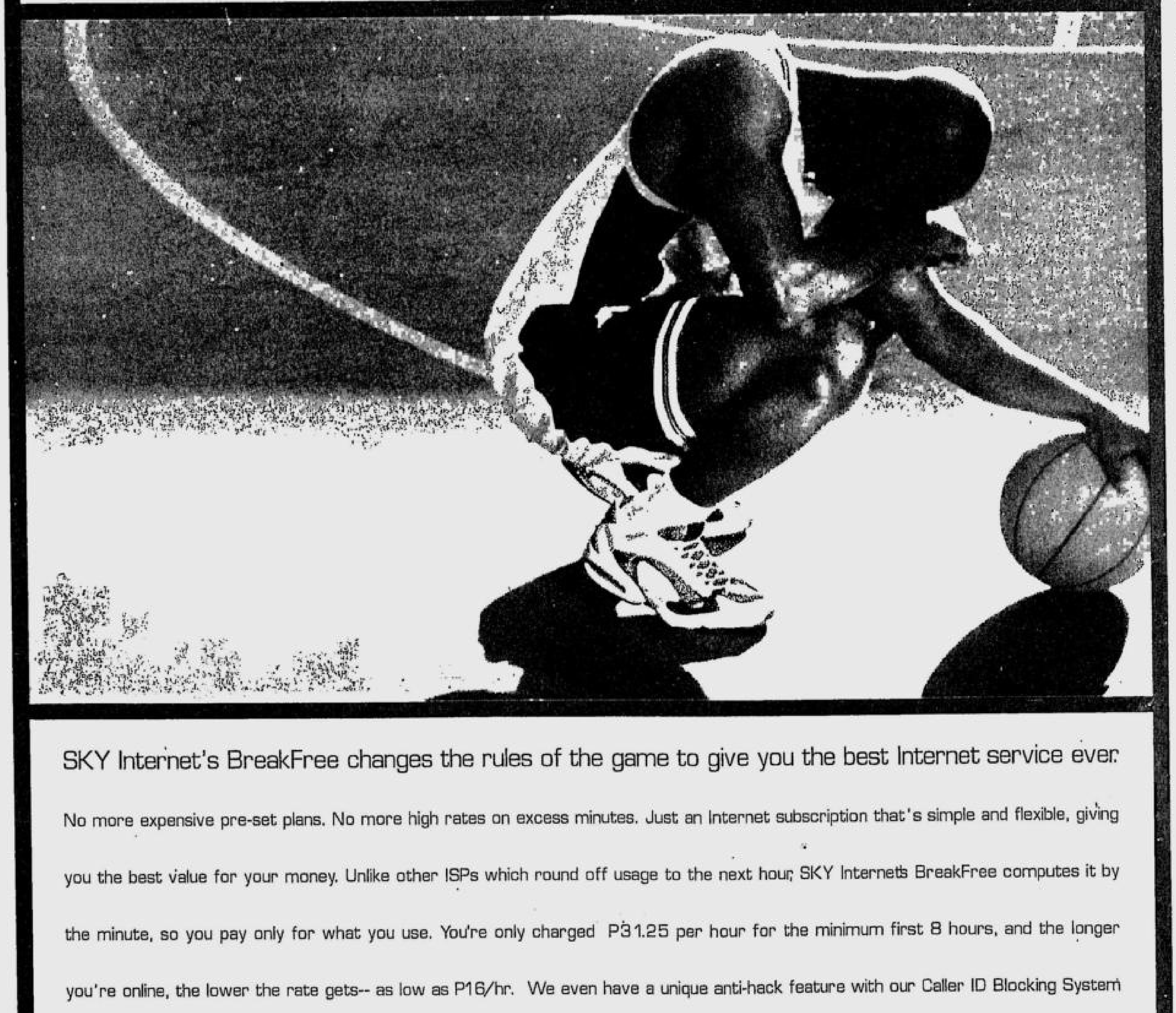
The new guidelines list down several grounds for the cancellation of a consumer group's certificate of accreditation.

A consumer group, for instance, is barred from supporting sales promotion activities of certain business enterprises with or without valuable consideration. A consumer group is also prevented from endorsing a product or granting awards to companies.

The trade department has raised serious doubts about the capability of consumer groups to conduct intensive product testing on a broad range of products.

travelling / goal tending / charging

ISP plans shouldn't be like a basketball game with a lot of penalties.



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Petronas seen keeping 38.5% stake in BPC

STATE-OWNED Petroliam Nasional Bhd. will keep its 38.5-percent stake in Bataan Polyethylene Corp., and it remains in talks with the government for a naphtha cracker facility contrary to speculations that the Malaysian oil giant is pulling out of the country's petrochemical business.

A government official said it was British Petroleum—not Petronas—which was on the market for its 38.5-percent share in BPC.

The official said Petronas would not exercise its option to buy out the stake of its partner.

The other investors of BPC are Bataan PE Holdings of the Philippines and Sumitomo Corp.

The official said Petronas decided to stick it out with the company despite its troubles especially after Malacañang decided to provide extended tariff protection to local resin producers through 2003, when duties on all goods traded within the region should fall to no more than 5 percent under the Asean Free Trade Area. Duties on polymers or resins are currently pegged at 15 percent.

BPC started operations of its $300-million plant two years ago with an annual capacity of 200,000 metric tons of polyethylene, a base input for plastic products.

Production has been placed on temporary suspension for over a year now due to poor sales, a regional supply glut and stiff competition from smuggled imports.

Petrochemical firms have either drastically cut down their output to below 50 percent of capacity or closed down their plants to stop the bleeding due to the government's failure to shut the door on smuggling of petrochemical products into the country.

The official said Petronas remained keen on the prospects of the local petrochemical industry as it continued to participate in talks for the construction of a naphtha cracker that would lead to a full integration of the industry.

The Department of Energy has taken the lead in the construction of the multimillion-dollar cracker project which has also attracted strong interest from the Brunei government. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Honda to invest $98M in Malaysia

PEGOH, Malaysia—Japan's No. 2 carmaker, Honda Motor Co., said yesterday it would expand its Malaysian presence by investing 374 million ringgit ($98 million) in its manufacturing operations by 2005.

The company has already invested 180 million ringgit in an 80-acre factory in southern Melaka state, which will be officially opened by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Jan. 17.

Honda Malaysia's managing director and chief executive, Seiji Kuraishi, said the plant has a production capacity of 20,000 units a year and will begin mass production by mid-December.

He said the expansion in Malaysia was part of a move to prepare for market opening in 2005 under the Asean Free Trade Area.

Despite a large passenger-car market in Malaysia of more than 400,000, Honda's share this year was still low at around only 6,500 units, but sales were projected to surge to more than 10,000 by next year with the introduction of new models, he said.

"We have invested 180 million ringgit so far, but we are committed to invest 374 million by 2005 for plant expansion and investment in new models and machinery," he told reporters after a tour of the plant.

The factory will begin production with the CRV four-wheel-drive model, while the Accord, Citi and Civic models which are currently being assembled by its partner, Oriental Holdings in southern Johor state, would be gradually phased in next year.

"Under current plans, the contract assembly with Oriental will stop by the end of next year," Kuraishi said.

He said the Malaysian plant would produce cars for the domestic market, with future plans to cater for the export market once capacity is expanded to 40,000 units. *AFP*

FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 29, 2002

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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The sublime House of R.T. Paras

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

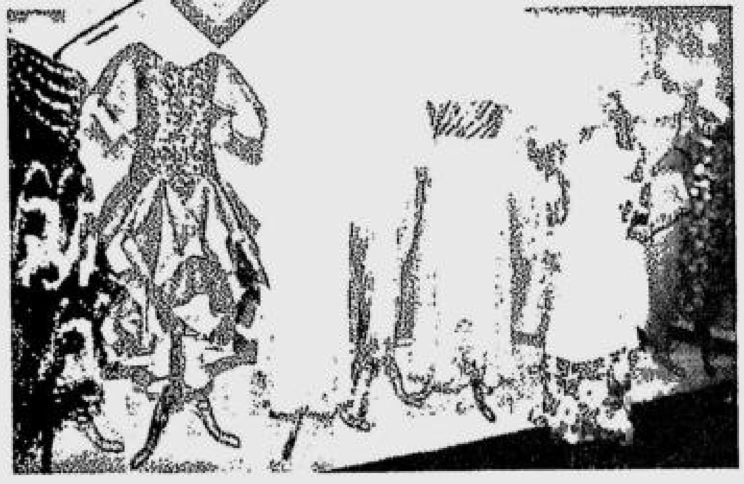
I HAD NEVER seen such old money, relatively old money, come out in public—as in a fashion event—in quite a while. But I did a few weeks ago at a tribute to the 100th year of the House of R.T. Paras.

As I expected, and as my young magazine staff feared, the highly select crowd was definitely not your clubbing market. They were from my mom's and *lola*'s generations (a few still around). But what my staff most likely

THE SUBLIME/ C2

It was quite
a pendulum
swing—from
a night of old money
to another night
of hip sex

Trend spotting



VINTAGE
dresses

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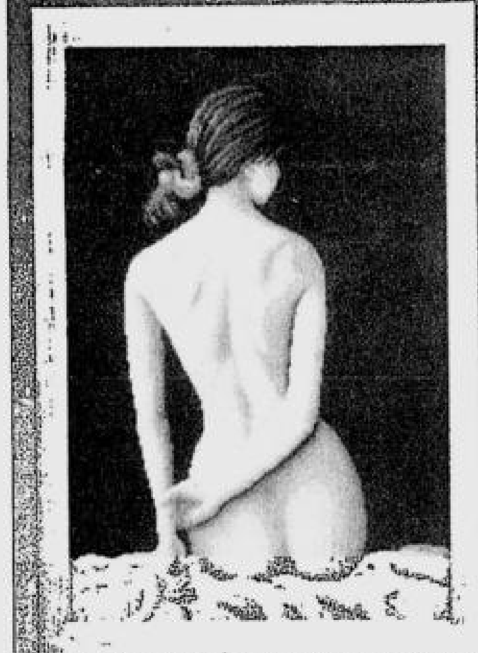
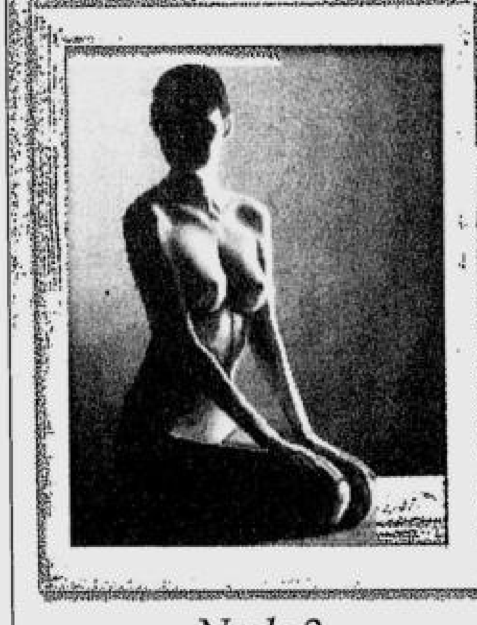


Nude 1



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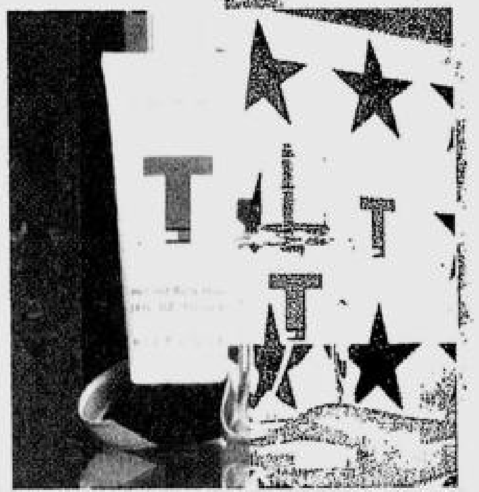

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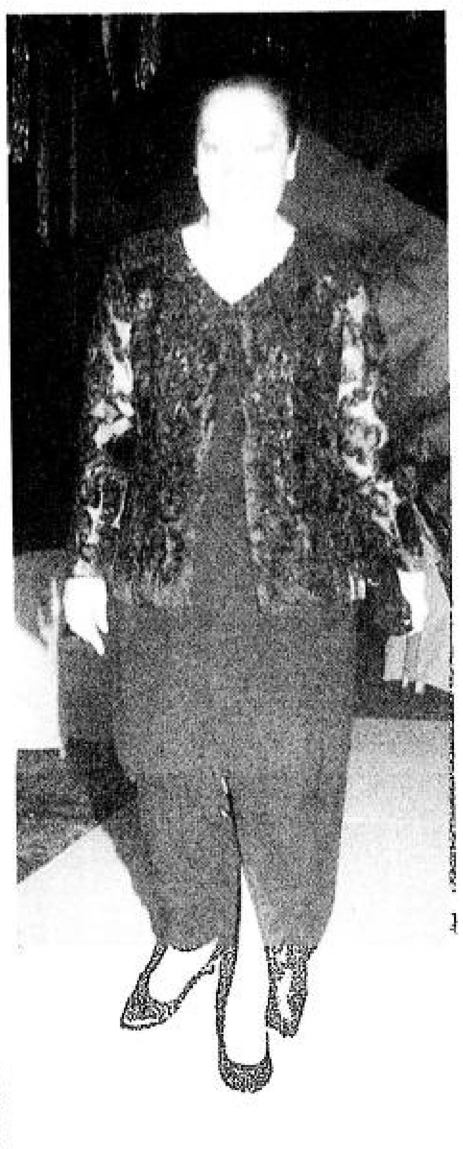
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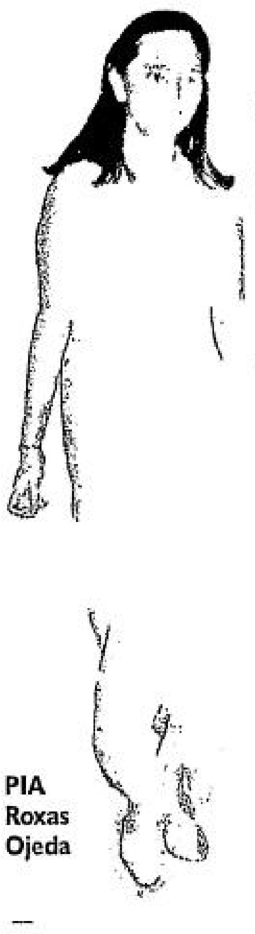
RIA Roxas Ojeda


PIA Roxas Ojeda

The sublime House of R.T. Paras

From page C1

didn't expect was that the mix extended to the daughters and granddaughters of this clientele that had stayed loyal to the House through a century. Thus, there were the chic clubby girls with their bare shoulders, matte or just-enough-glitter formals, that for a change, fell down to their ankles. Mostly everyone followed the long-gown dress code specified, again something I hadn't seen the town do in quite a while.

Of course, since the night was formal, it was necessarily bejeweled. As a curious eye at our table noted, "I've never seen emeralds that green and big for quite some time." Indeed, the rocks were out to air, but they were clearly not new; you sensed somewhat that they had been with the wearers for quite some time, as the latter were born to them. They had a conservative air about them. In that way did the gathering not seem flashy or nouveau, or showing off. It wasn't loud.

Since the Edsa Revolution (the first and optimistic one), it has not been that easy to convince Manila to glam up. One doesn't want to go over the top because "Imeldific" doesn't look good in one's resumé.

However if the occasion is relatively private, as this invitational one, then many don the gowns and the baubles with ease.

The House of R. T. Paras (for Roberta Tablante Paras) has been around a century, its haute couture tradition perpetuated by Paras' daughter "Inang" Gonzales, and after Inang died, by her only child Roy Gonzales, who had worked as designer for the House of Jean Patou in Paris. It was Roy who thought of staging this tribute to his *lola* and to his mom.

The NBC Tent at the Fort was decked up for the occasion, conservatively, with songs by Nat King Cole, Natalie Cole or Barbra Streisand playing as guests took their seats around tables which, for a change, weren't sardined in the huge tent. In this way was this unlike other fashion events. Because invitations were limited to long-time clients and friends, the tables were comfortably laid out. Up front, videos of still photos of the two matriarchs—taken through the decades—ran on the giant screen.

There was no fashion show; it wasn't a night for Roy's designs. Instead the House's leading clientele—generations of each family—wore gowns, many of them vintage, designed by Inang herself decades ago, and a few updated by Roy himself. The clothes were taken from the collections of the clients themselves—a good move for it proved how classic the design and craftsmanship could be.

The women emerged onstage, walked down the steps and back to their seats—a casual yet dignified walk, nothing theatrical.

Opening it was, of course, the three generations of Araneta women who are among the most loyal of the Paras' clientele. The clan matriarch, Doña Esther Araneta, couldn't do the catwalk, of course. Her daughter Judy Araneta Roxas opened the show regally, followed by her sister Baby Forés, in a tied-up dark gray chiffon gown with a stem of skirt and jacket. Next came one after the other, the younger Aranetas—Maria Roxas Ojeda, Bledes Forés, and Margarita in a vintage black chiffon with asymmetric hemline made by Inang for Margarita's mom. This dusky restaurateur, easily one of Manila's best dressed because of how she could turn nonchalance into chic, looked so good in this strapless black with fluid panels of chiffon flowing and falling in a hankie-drop. The second and third Araneta generations had the fourth one in tow—Pia and Anna Roxas Ojeda.

Then came another matriarch—Josephine Cojuangco with daughter Isabel Cojuangco

THE SUBLIME/ C3

(standing) FR. Boyd Sulpico, Clarita Paras, Gloria Garganera, Imelda Cojuangco, Roy Gonzales, Jean-Yves Daniel; (seated) Josephine Cojuangco and Isabel Suntay

make an impression.
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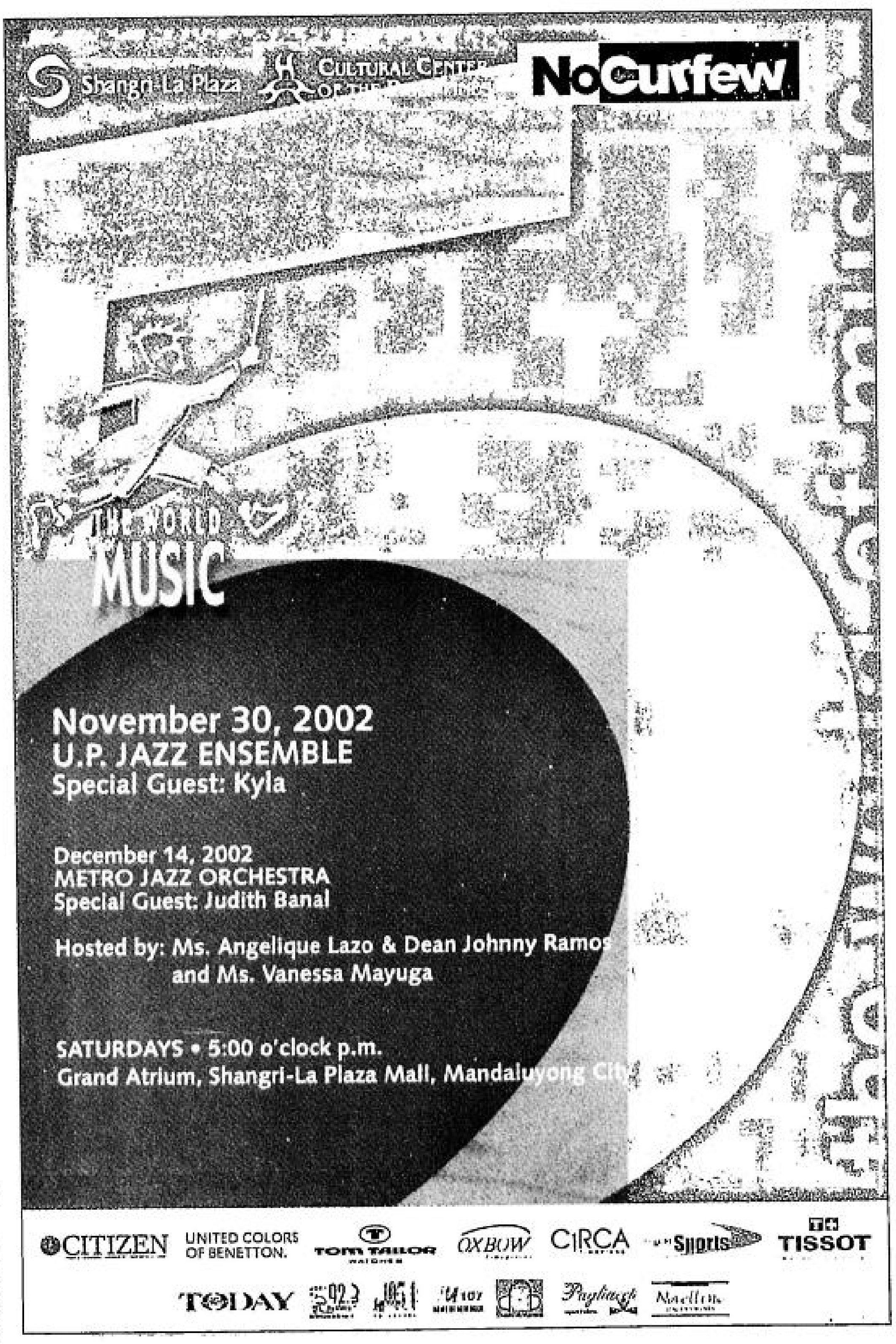

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CLARITA Paras, Aleta Tan, Mariano Tan with daughters Beryl and Adeline; Jonathan Carran and Roy

The sublime House of R.T. Paras

ANNA
Roxas
Ojeda

From page C2

Suntay. They were followed by the Gregorios (the clan behind the famous Gregg shoes)—Francisca Gregorio, daughter Odelia G. Arroyo (wife of Joker), Lilia G. Almario in a vintage dress of her mom Francisca, and today's popular shoe/bag designer Lila G. Almario, in her mom's Lilia's vintage black halter dress.

There were also the generations of the dela Merceds—Doña Emiliana, Minerva, Christy and Melissa; Letizia Constantino (eminent historian Renato Constantino's widow), quite patrician and elegant in a number that was among the last designed by Inang herself. Letizia walked with her granddaughter Jika David, the daughter of Karina and Randy. Jika was in an old-rose shantung cut like corset on biased skirt.

Other families followed, two to three generations of them, among them the Tinios—Anna Katrina, Carina in vintage clothes of their grandmother Benita; the Guevaras; the Martinezes.

The show, more of a parade really, was over in less than 40 minutes. The finale, as everyone expected, was society icon Imelda Cojuangco, who's been so associated with R.T. Paras. For years and years, she'd have her weekly fittings with Inang herself, and people knew that most of what she wore were by the House. To the crowd's applause, Meldy walked down the steps, escorted by Roy himself, wearing a beautiful vermillion gown designed by Roy.

Roy made the right decision in asking the House's old-time clientele to wear their vintage creations, some of which were on exhibit in the hall, instead of making new designs. It was clear from this that the show was for his *lola* and mom, not for him. It was some retrospective that showed you the ability and skills of an old Philippine fashion house—from the cut and bias, construction, draping, beading, embroidery to tailoring.

It was a tribute not only to two venerable matriarchs, but to the tradition of Philippine haute couture and the generations that knew how to appreciate it.

'Rocky Horror Show'

Actually, the past two weeks was quite a pendulum swing for us—from a classic Filipino haute couture event to "The Rocky Horror Show." Can't have a wilder swing than that.

Since I saw his "Angels in America," I've tried never to miss Bobby Garcia's directions. His "Rocky…" at RCBC Plaza's Carlos P. Romulo's auditorium (on weekends until Dec. 8) was a casting coup, polished and almost seamless as most Garcia's works, and a riot with the cast, particularly Chari Arespacochaga, working up the audience's energy throughout. It was rock, camp, sex, wit, laughs—all you need for a chill-out Friday.

The leads were Noel Rayos (alternating with Joel Trinidad), Cathy Azanza, who walked the tight rope between virginal and slutty just fine. (A few minutes into the show, I thought she looked so familiar. Then I knew why—I see her almost every day in the office because she's the managing editor of our new Pink magazine.) Also in the power cast were Michael de Mesa, Bituin Escalante, Anna Fegi, Mylene Dizon (surprise!), Jett Pangan, Jay Espano, Pheona Baranda, Gloria Sicam and, of course, Aiza Seguerra, whom everyone was curious about. This girl keeps unearthing new talents—she can hold her own against the seasoned stage talents.

But the audience wound up the evening talking about the star—Calvin Millado as Frank n' Furter. It was awesome how Calvin—all 6 ft and 200 lbs of him—could do such a good transvestite, slut, hunk, sex kitten, neurotic all in one. And—he could strut on those skyscraper heels, too. (Angelo Villanueva told us Calvin practiced on those heels for hours on end.)

Rajo Laurel did the costumes, ManMan Angsico the musical direction, Andy Alviz the choreography.

Don't miss this musical.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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Pureness: It looks matte but feels moisturized

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

RECENTLY, I had breakouts and acne that I had escaped from with my old skin-care regimen. I went to Shiseido for a skin-care analysis, facial and product recommendation. I was immediately booked at its Glorietta 4 branch.

Sure enough, Maxine, the skin analyzer, showed that I had oily to acne-prone skin. The richer formulations I had been testing on my face had apparently aggravated my condition. The staff pressed a gun on different areas of my face and compared my appearance to the chart. The process determined whether the skin was oily, dry, normal or a combination of all of these. Then the staff gave me advice on what products worked best for the particular skin type.

The facial. I then proceeded with their Pureness facial for oily skin given to me by Reylyn Serves. I was led to this private but spacious facial room behind the store with a frosted glass door. It was built in such a way that the noise from the outside was muffled to zero, and relaxing music was played inside. As I lied down, I noticed this very calming scent emanating from a vaporizer, which Reylyn explained was Shiseido's own relaxing fragrance. I was ready to fall asleep on this alone. She wrapped my head with a towel, massaged my arms and shoulders with the exact amount of pressure—a pampering fit for any queen. This was Japanese service as she was trained by someone from the Japan head office. She glided across the room as silently as a cat as she kneaded away all the tension and cleaned my face. The vacuum she used to take out my blackheads was strong enough without irritating my skin. She explained that the pressure exerted would vary based on the skin type and the skin's personal needs. The entire procedure lasted one hour and 15 minutes, with no pain but a lot of gain. Afterwards, I was offered green tea. Facial prices: Pureness, P800; all skin types, P1,000; UV White to fade pigmentation and sunspots, P1,200; and Benefiance, P1,100 for mature, ageing skin.

The product recommended for my skin type was the Pureness line, which, to my delight, was the most reasonable skin-care line from Shiseido. It is designed for teens and adults with oily skin.

Step 1. Cleansing—There are four products to choose from: the Cleansing Water (P1,250), a wipe-off cleanser press; Refreshing Cleansing sheets (P800); Deep Cleansing Foam (P1,000), my choice, as it contains granules to gently exfoliate; and Foaming Cleansing Fluid (P1,450). All cleansers contain lavender and other relaxing scents, which we are encouraged to smell before applying and massaging to face. Reason: When we are relaxed, we fight stress and prevent excess oil production that causes our skin to break out.

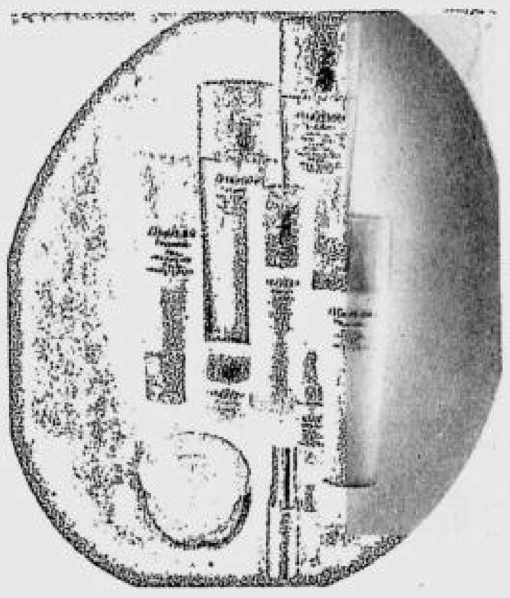
Step 2. Alcohol-free Balancing Softener (P1,350). This deposits moisture on the face, which cleansing products may have stripped away, and preps our skin to accept treatment products. Apply after cleansing. Press pump three times for the right amount.

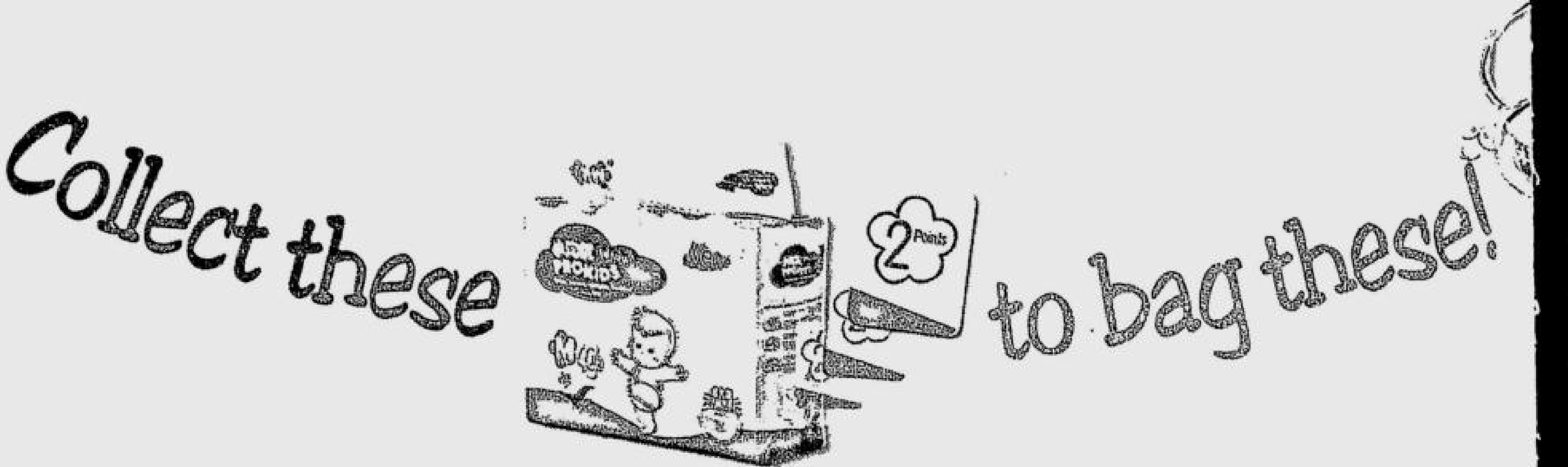
Step 3. Moisturizing. Even the greasiest of skin needs moisture to hydrate it. Oil and moisture are not the same thing. We need moisture to make our skin soft and smooth, and let it regenerate better. Oily skin though needs a special moisturizer. The two choices are: Mattifying Moisturizer Oil Free (P1,500); and Moisturizing Gel Cream (P1,100).

I chose the first one because it did leave my skin matte but baby soft. I use this day and night. There was no oil in sight, but my skin did not look pasty and dull; in fact, very hydrated. The last time I remember skin like this on me was when I was six years old.

The extras. Blemish Target Gel—applied to cleaned oily areas and holds oil at bay longer. It's colorless so it matches any skin tone. Oil Blotting Paper (P650); Mattifying compact oil-free SPF 16: Compact only (P700); Refill (P1,150). Sold separately. Promo: A minimum single purchase of P2,000 will entitle you to a free black Shiseido handbag with a Tiffany blue leather strap. The bag is very roomy and classic.

Outlets with facial room: Watson's at The Podium, 2/F Glorietta 4, and G/F of Power Plant. Counters only: SM North Edsa, Makati, Megamall and Harrison Plaza, and Landmark.





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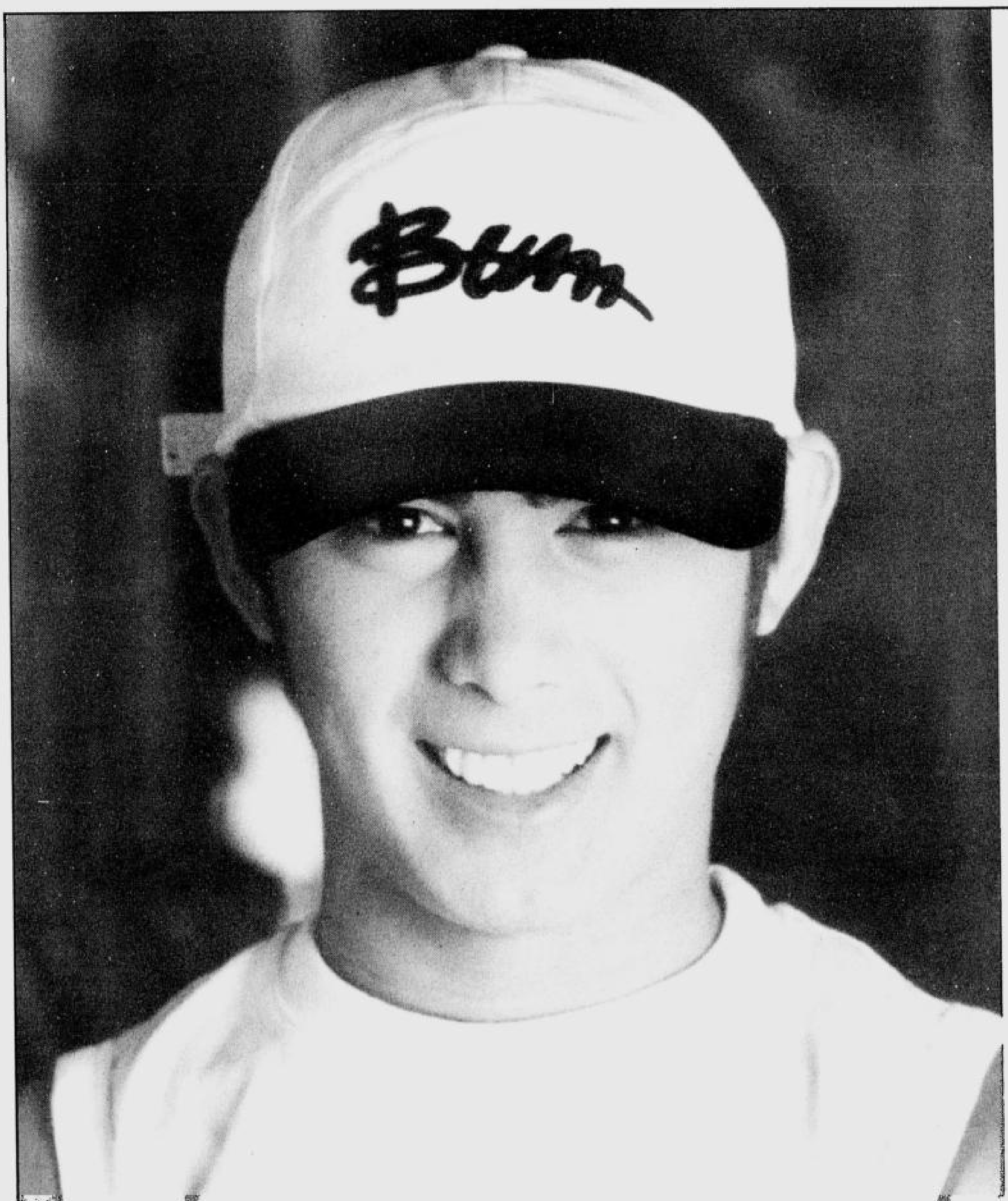

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Winners in Hairdresser's Day announced

THE FILIPINO Hairdresser Cooperative (Fil-Hair Coop) held recently the Hairdresser's Day 2002, which featured a hair show, competition and the induction of the organization's newly elected officers, in the lobby of the Philippine Trade Training Center.

Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, Mila Drilon, wife of Senate President Frank Drilon, and Ricky Reyes, president of Fil-Hair Coop, inducted the new officers.

The hair show featured award-winning beauty and hairstylists Dennis Joseph Delgado, Rolly Paraon, Armand Remojo, and guests from Japan, Yoshizo Taoka, Korea and Taiwan. Hairlight Show and Kolours by Splash participated in the exhibition.

Winners in the Commercial Creative Color Styling were Phillip Yalong, champion; Jeffrey Mendoza Guro, first runner up; Ricky Cristobal, second runner up; and Kei Pagtakhan, third runner up. Honorable mentions were Benjie Galino, Reggie Cruz, Jun Eliserio, Richard Songalea and Cris Estalilla.

In the Avant Garde Color Styling, winners were Jackie Rivera, champion; Lovely de Leon, first runner up; Ricky Cristobal, second runner up; and Alex Monton, third runner up. Honorable mentions were Bong Gandawali, Dante Paguihia, Riza Jones, Edgar de Leon and Rafi Jai-yari.

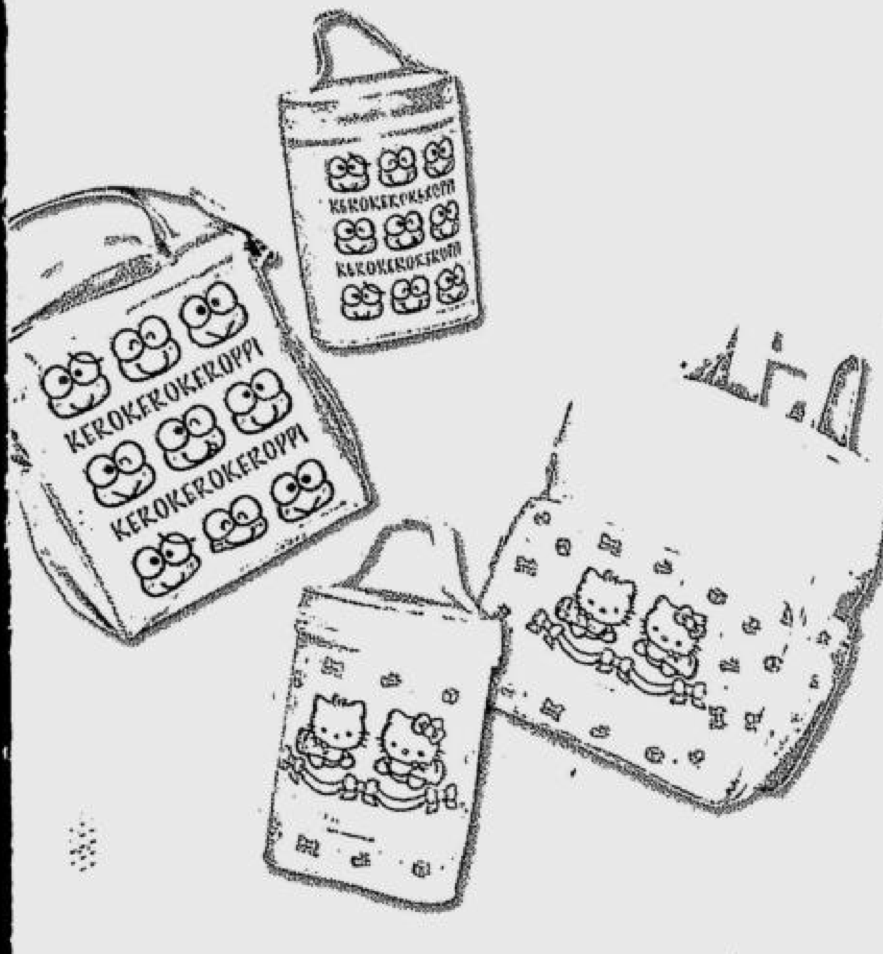
Winners in the Modern Teenager Men's Cut and Blowdry were Oske Cabeltis, champion; Bong Gandawali, first runner up; Ronald Tito, second runner up; and Edgar de Leon, third runner up. Honorable mentions were Ardel Teodoro, Bong Acosta, Benjie Galino, Edwin Domingo and Churchill Dignos.

Winners in the Wedge Ladies Cut and Blowdry were Wilson Jumahari, champion; Bong Acosta, 1st runner up; Ardel Teodoro, 2nd runner up; and Bobby Fernandez, 3rd runner up.

Winners in the Evening Party Makeup were Bong Acosta, champion; Bouian Casteras, first runner up; Jackie Rivera, second runner up; and Ricky Cristobal, third runner up. Honorable mentions were Kei Pagtakhan, Joera Advincula, Robert Paglingan, Ardel Teodoro and Dennis Santos.

Hairdressers Day

RICKY Reyes with the winners and their models



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New line of watches to be launched

G-SHOCK will unveil its latest line of watches in a fashion show at 8 tonight at The Podium on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Presented by Gentxt, the show, titled "The Now Generation Fashion—Holiday Collections 2002," will be directed by Joey Espino Jr. An after-show party will be held at the Elbow Room.

The new watch models to be launched include: Casio G-shock MTG, a stainless steel, super-hard resin that is slimmer and sleeker yet tough; Casio Wrist Camera, which records images transferrable to a computer for viewing in full color, incorporate into a website and other possible applications; Phys Casio Sports Gear, for track and field professionals, with oversized front-mounted control buttons and a large duplex LCD; Sea Pathfinder, for the maritime adventurer, equipped with direction, air pressure and temperature sensors; and Pro Tek, dubbed as the coolest watch with global positioning system that allows for checking current position and PC linking capabilities, perfect for mountain trekking and urban jungle.

Casio G-Shock watches are available at G-Factory stores located at The Podium, SM Manila, SM North Edsa and soon to open at SM Bicutan A and SM Sucat.

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Hey, good-looking (mom)

By Daphne Oseña-Paez
Contributor

With very little effort, pregnancy can be a time when you look and feel your best

MOST people expect pregnant women to look bad. You're lucky if you hear things like, "You look great. . for a pregnant woman," "Wow, you're carrying your pregnancy really well" or "It's amazing your nose hasn't swelled up yet." Or how about this one, "It must be a girl because you're blooming. I know this woman who was carrying a boy... Oh boy!"

The comments often come from women who have not been pregnant or men who will never be. But while women generally expect to get ugly and fat during pregnancy, it doesn't have to be that way.

It's a medical fact that hormonal imbalances will cause major physical changes in the body. So how can a pregnant woman, especially someone like me who has to be seen by millions of televiewers every Saturday evening (take note that the camera adds a couple of pounds), come close to looking good at the very least?

I plan to keep hosting "F" while still physically able. However, as it is a lifestyle magazine show featuring fashion and style, I can't afford to wear the same "maternity look." Besides, "F" will document my growing pregnant belly from every angle.

In the face of this fashion and beauty crisis, my husband helps, giving me unbiased opinion about the outfits I wear. My maternity wardrobe has become a joint project and, so far, with good results.

We have one non-negotiable rule. I won't wear anything I did not wear BP (before pregnancy).

EVENING LOOK. The author wears308 Electric Dream, 331 Rainbow, Artliner 02 Brun, Amplicils 01, Lipbrio #140 and Rouge Absolu Sensation 385

And I will not wear anything that's too big for me. Meaning, no dresses tied at the back in anticipation of the growing belly. Most of these clothes are meant for eighth- to ninth-month-sized bellies. So don't wear them if you're only in your fifth month.

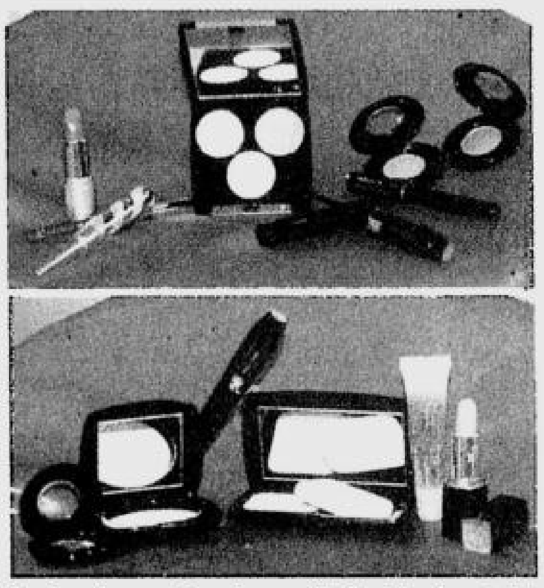
My first maternity purchase was a pair of jeans from Gap online. At $60 plus shipping, it is worth every penny. I wear them with T-shirts and blouses, most of them "normal" tops that are generous around the waist. Up until my fifth month, I wore knit sweaters from Lulu Tan Gan (they have lots of room and, with the big holes, they breathe), one-of-a-kind tops from Souk (owner/designer Richie Ortega made me blouses inspired by recent runway shows), and stretchy tank tops and shirts from my closet.

I continued being a dressy girl like before, even DP (during pregnancy). I still wear K & Company's dresses, but one size bigger. But since there are now very little "normal" fashions I can get away with at six months, Richie makes me stylish tops and semi-formal dresses.

A store called Great Expectations has very good maternity pants—slim, bootleg cut and very comfortable. It also has shirt- and sheath dresses in solid neutral colors that are not cut like tents. Dresses cut on the bias in flowing fabrics or dresses using clinging jersey materials are best.

As there is no way to hide a bulging belly, why not be proud of it instead? Think Sarah Jessica Parker in the last season of "Sex and the City," wearing empire-waist dresses, aprons with revealing backs, or straight-column dresses. Show some skin, a little cleavage and lots of legs.

DAY AND NIGHT STAPLES. Compact Foundation Maquicake UV #60, Concealer Palette Mix 01, Poudre Blanc Neige 010 and Blush Subtil 03



Skin care is a major concern during pregnancy but, because of hormones, there's really not much that can be done but to let the skin be. Some creams may be harmful to the developing baby. Consult your doctor before using any cream. I still go to my dermatologist, Dr. Gilbert Yang, once a month for maintenance—cleaning and unclogging of pores.

At home, I have my own simple regimen. Twice a week, I exfoliate with Lancôme's fresh Exfoliating Clarifying Gel to remove dead cells and other impurities. Night and day, I use Hydra Zen, a gentle cream to moisturize my face. For days when my skin feels sallow, I put a little Vitabolic, an oil-free mixture rich in Vitamin C. And the one product I can't do without every day is sunscreen—Lancôme's UV Expert.

I wear makeup every day, more now than before. For some reason, I don't go out with my eyes unlined these days. I think I'm *naglilihi* with eye makeup. I don't use eyeliner but an amazing purple color (Lancôme 346 Sans Faute), an eye shadow I use to line the rims of my eyes resulting in a sexy smoky effect day or night, depending on the amount applied.

At a makeup and skin-care workshop at the Lancôme counter in Rustan's recently, I learned a lot from makeup expert Mariz. One of them is to put toner, moisturizer and sunscreen on the face before applying foundation. When applied properly, the products don't feel heavy and they work together to protect, moisturize and prep the skin for makeup.

On a daily basis, I use a light concealer then dab on a light coat of liquid foundation to even out my spots. I top it off with Lancôme's Light Reflecting Compact Powder, applied with a brush for a light effect. Another must-have is Lancôme's Blush Focus in Strawberry Sundae, which is applicable by hand, using two or three finger tips to blend into cheekbones for natural rosy-cheeks look.

I'm now on my 25th week of pregnancy. My belly is showing and I'm proud of it.

Physical changes do occur. A bad back even kept me bed-ridden for the first two months, resulting in ugly scars. My feet are swollen and I am gaining weight.

But everything seemed unimportant once I started to feel my little baby moving and kicking inside my body.

It is true that you can look your worst when pregnant but, with very little effort, like keeping your hair neat, wearing proper shoes and flattering outfits, you can prevent that from happening and believe like some women, myself included, that pregnancy is a time when they look and feel their best.

The baby growing inside of me is better than any beauty product, for it gives an inner glow and twinkle in my eyes.

Those who want to attend a Lancôme makeup or skin-care workshop can call Rustan's Makati at 813-3739 local 228; Rustan's Tower at 633-4636 local 410; or Rustan's Alabang at 850-5532 local 126.

For one-on-one counter makeup workshop, call Mariz de los Reyes at Lancôme Rustan's-Makati. All workshops are free of charge.

FOR DAPHNE'S daytime eye makeup, Lancôme's Mariz de los Reyes recommends 216 Diamonds and Pearls and 220 Epices de le Passion.

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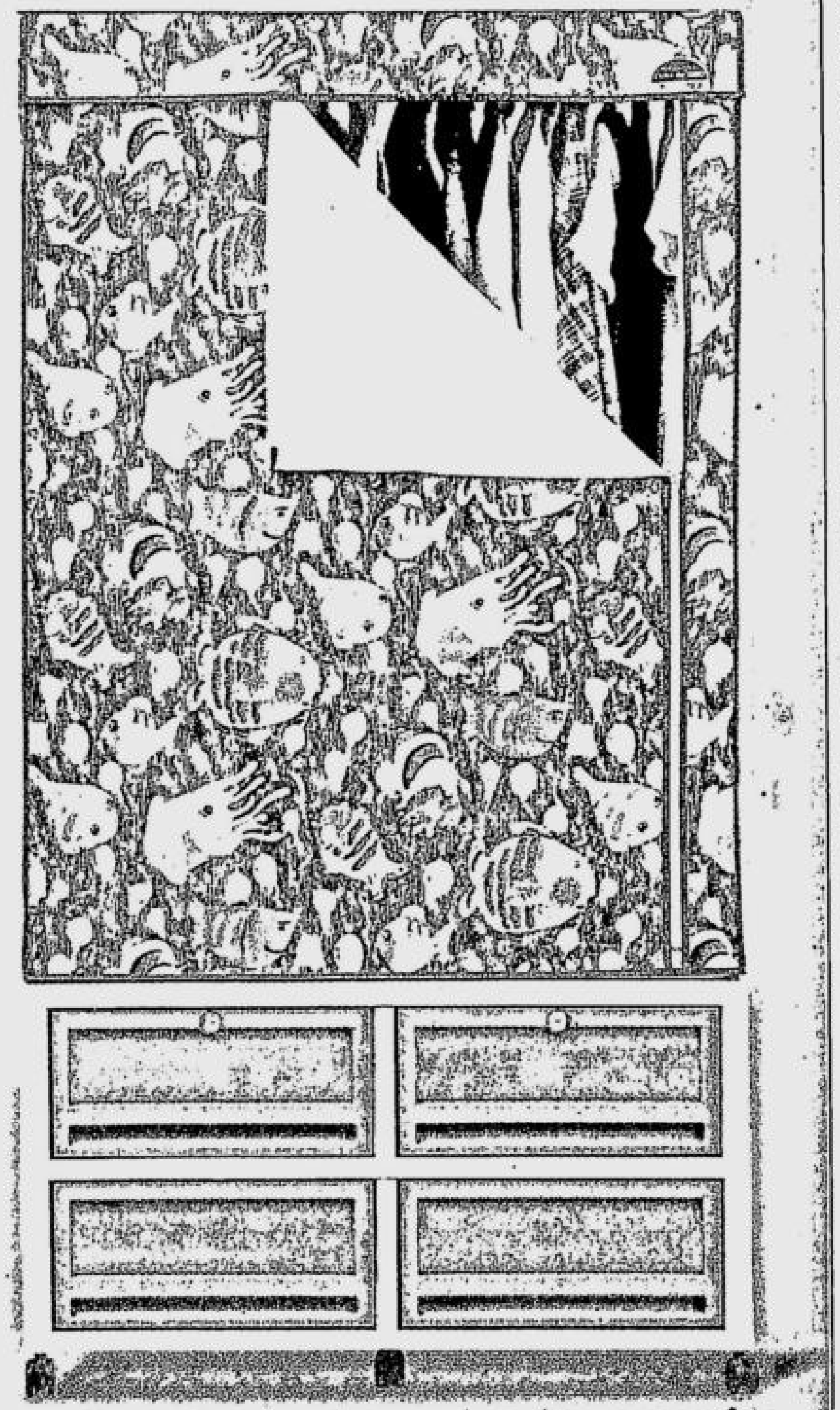

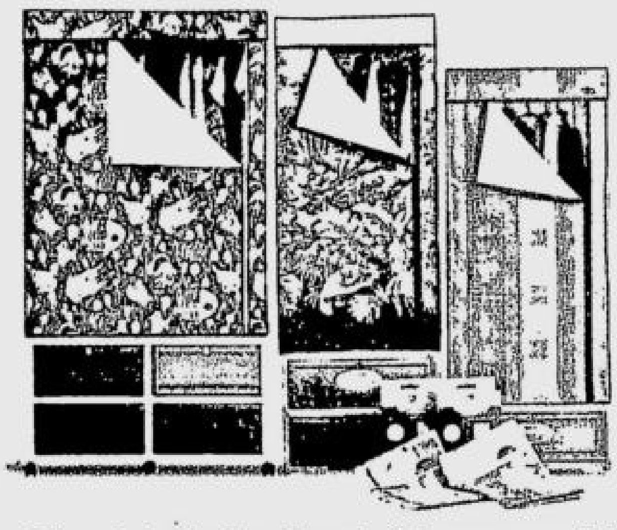

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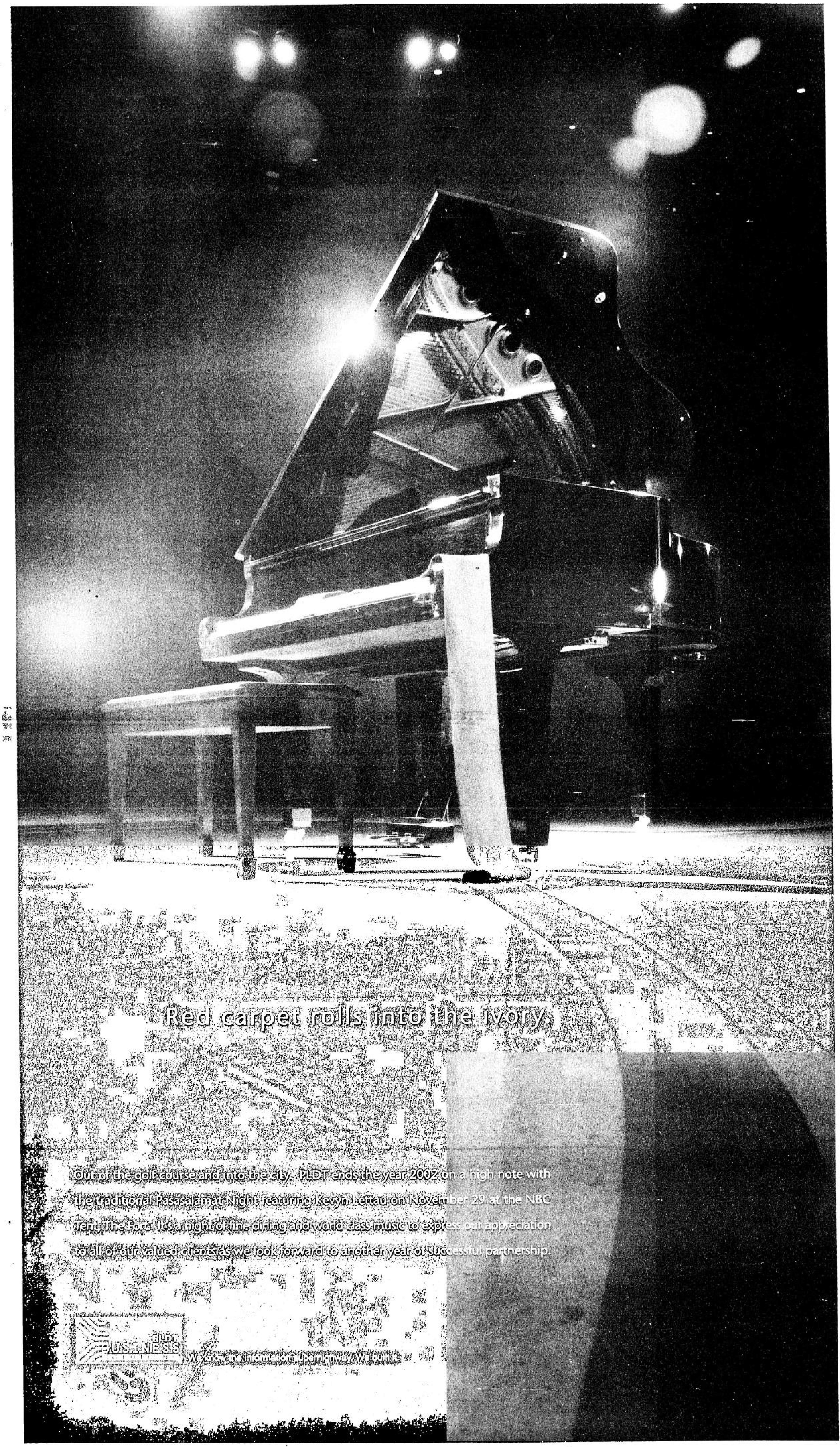

Red carpet rolls into the ivory

Out of the golf course and into the city. PLDT ends the year 2002 on a high note with the traditional Pasasalamat Night featuring Kevyn Lettau on November 29 at the NBC Tent, The Fort. It's a night of fine dining and world class music to express our appreciation to all of our valued clients as we look forward to another year of successful partnership.

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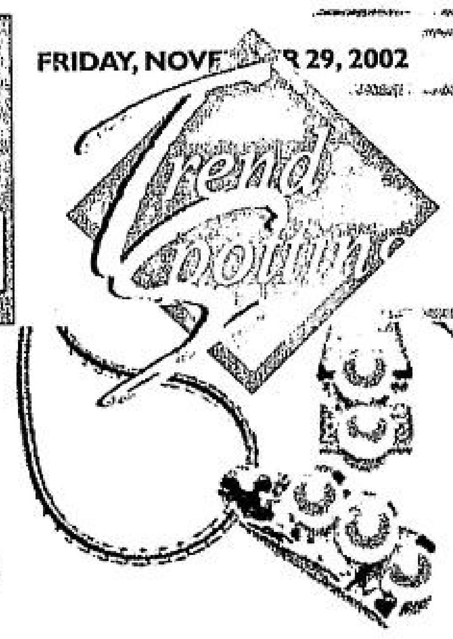

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reign2 undead1 undead2 warcraft warcraft2 warcraft3 warcraft4

Icons

chaos elf1 elf2 human1 human2
human3 orc1 orc2 orc3 reign
undead1 undead2 undead3 warcraft warcraft1

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Type in **TC (keyword)** and send to 2375. Ex: TC chaos

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Type in **TC (keyword) (mobile number)** and send to 2375.
Ex: TC chaos 09171234567

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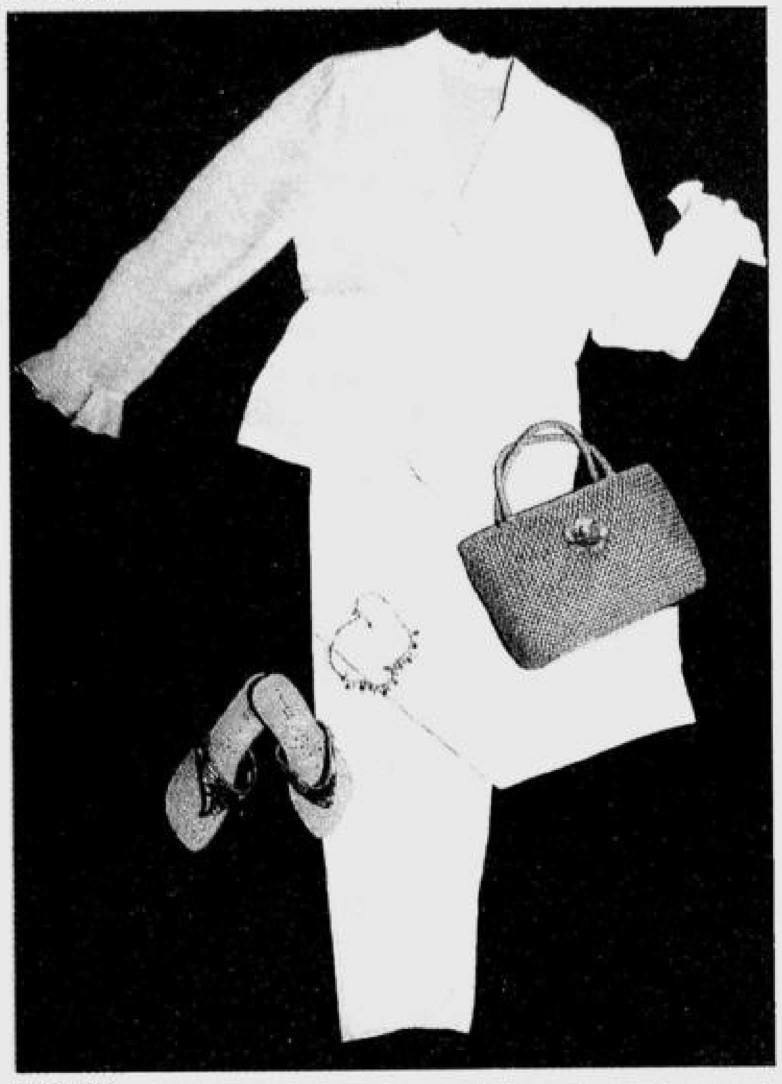
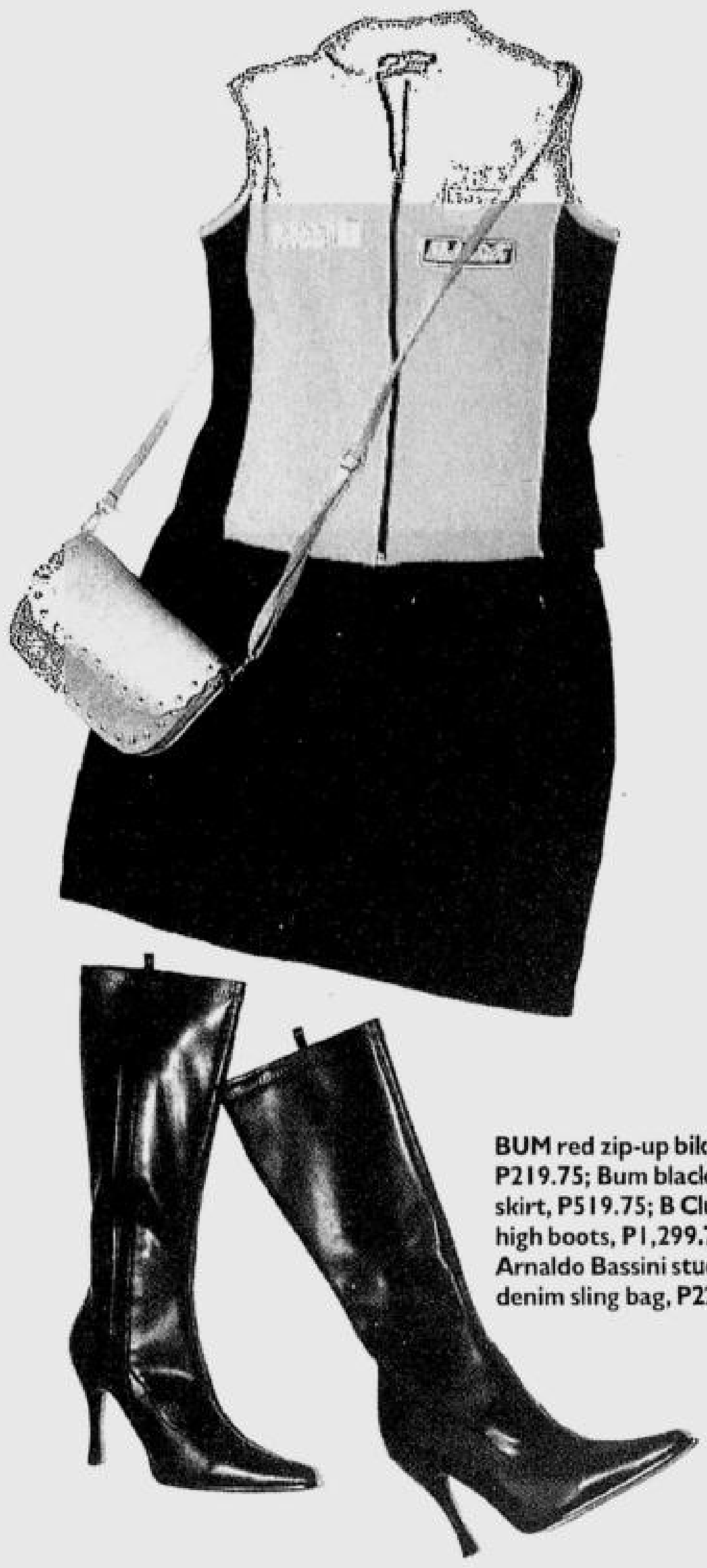
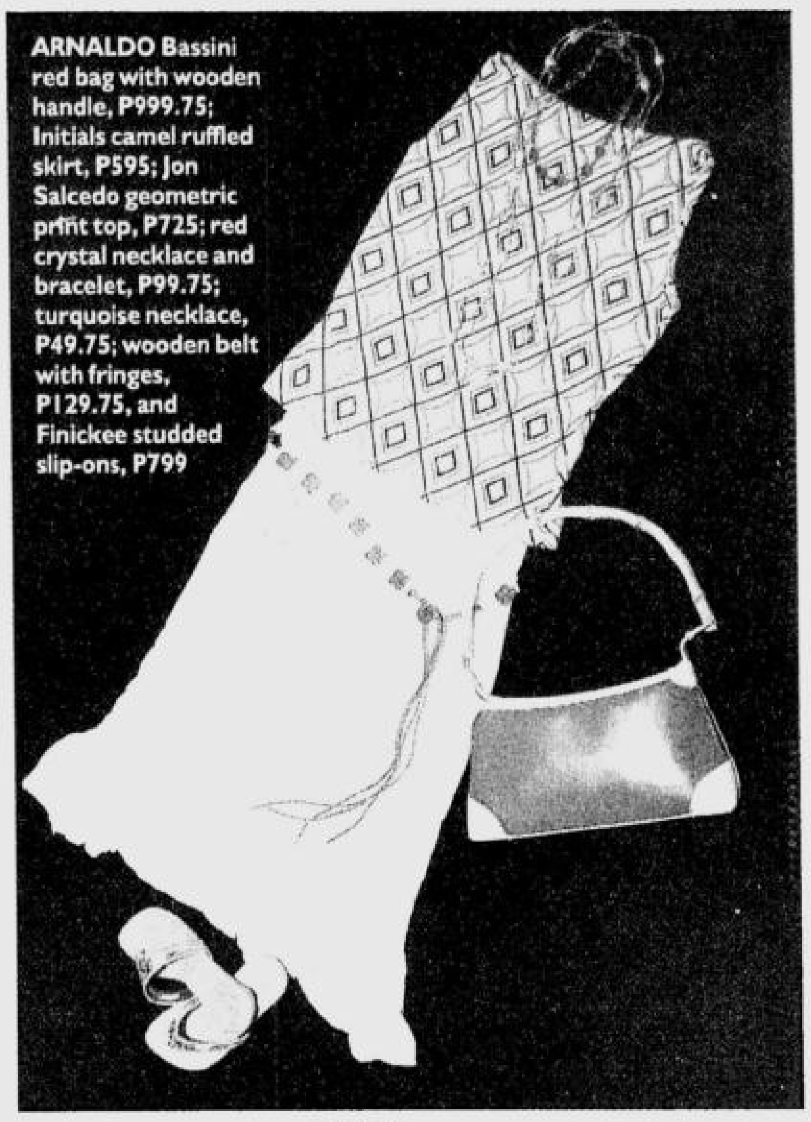


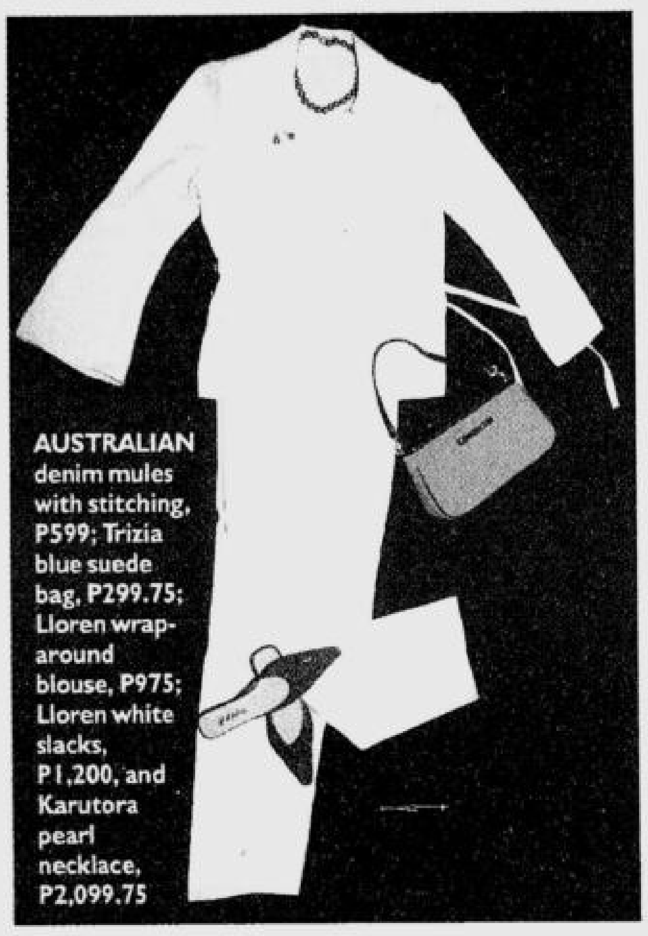
LLOREN long-sleeve top with ruffled edges, P975; Lloren cream pants, P1,200; bead necklace, P59.50; Finickee studded slip-ons, P799, and Donna Lyssa green woven bag, P1,199.75



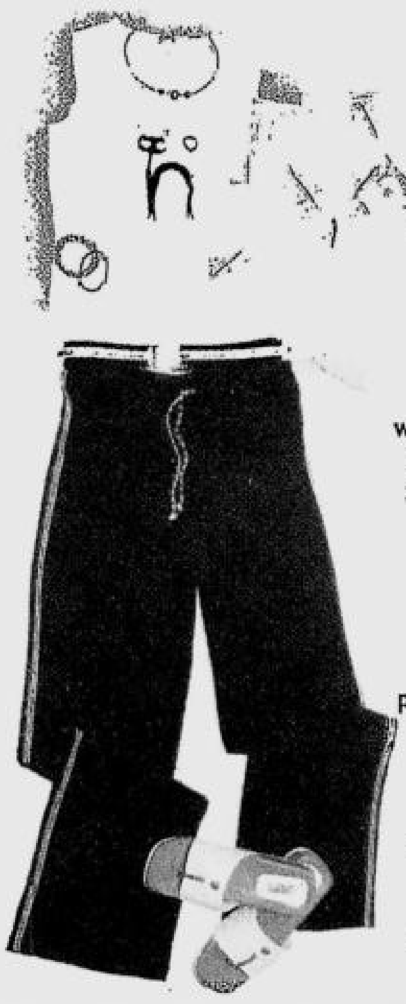
BUM red zip-up biker shirt, P219.75; Bum black cord skirt, P519.75; B Club knee-high boots, P1,299.75, and Arnaldo Bassini studded denim sling bag, P229.75



ARNALDO Bassini red bag with wooden handle, P999.75; Initials camel ruffled skirt, P595; Jon Salcedo geometric print top, P725; red crystal necklace and bracelet, P99.75; turquoise necklace, P49.75; wooden belt with fringes, P129.75, and Finickee studded slip-ons, P799



AUSTRALIAN denim mules with stitching, P599; Trizia blue suede bag, P299.75; Lloren wrap-around blouse, P975; Lloren white slacks, P1,200, and Karutora pearl necklace, P2,099.75



CONFETTI blue-and-white slip-ons, P245; striped garrison belt, P89.50; turquoise bangle and necklace, P99.75; Estante pussycat shirt, P399.75; Candy navy blue sweat pants, P549.75, and Candy lime green windbreaker, P549.75

Splurge or scrimp but do it with style

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

SHOPPING is undoubtedly one of the most gratifying activities around—that is, if budget is not a problem.

But let's face it. Not everyone can afford to splurge these days, especially on clothes, shoes and accessories. With rising costs, even the moneyed are watching their purse strings.

Fret not, however. There is much to discover at inexpensive places where you can shop without cramping your style.

Trust us, we tried it ourselves. The Lifestyle editor, bon vivant Tessa Prieto-Valdes and this writer raided Robinsons Department Store (RDS) in Galleria. Our mission: to pick the best buys and come up each with three sets of looks from the ladies' department, which meant, whatever tickled our fancy.

Three on a spree

Three age groups, three diverse tastes—but with one whole level devoted mainly to clothes and still another to shoes and accessories—there was more than enough choices to send our heads reeling in delight.

If designer labels are your fancy, RDS has a whole section of separates and formals by its in-house designers. Do we dare mention the name Jojie Lloren?

Let the name impress, not intimidate, you. You can take home a designer piece for just under one grand! The editor understandably got carried away with Lloren's off-white pieces.

I opted for street garb and biker chic. Was I amazed! Tees for under P100, trendy cord jeans, suede fringe bags, cool denim trench—from obscure, relatively unknown brands to by-word labels. It was like shopping in Hong Kong without a boarding pass!

Trendy picks

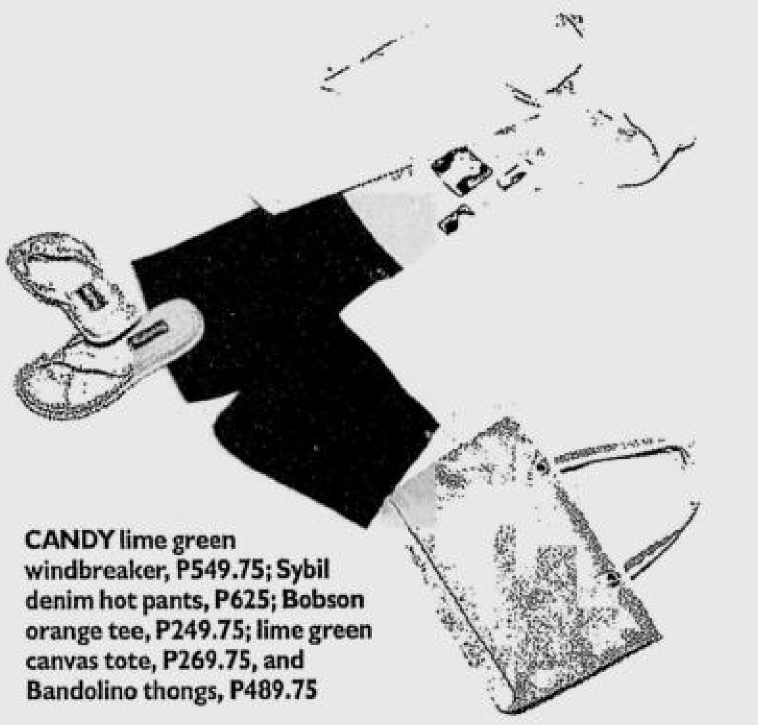
RDS has practically something for everyone, and the picks of vibrant style icon Tessa were, without a doubt, proof enough. She went crazy over faux trinkets (some for under P15 at that!), funky appliquéd denims at P600+, cute tees at P300+, ruffled skirt at under P600+. The result: sporty hip and casual chic minus the outrageous price tag.

We are often unwitting victims of our, hmmm, stuck-up noses, so we avoid mall department stores like the plague when we shop for clothes. We're afraid of running into someone wearing the same thing.

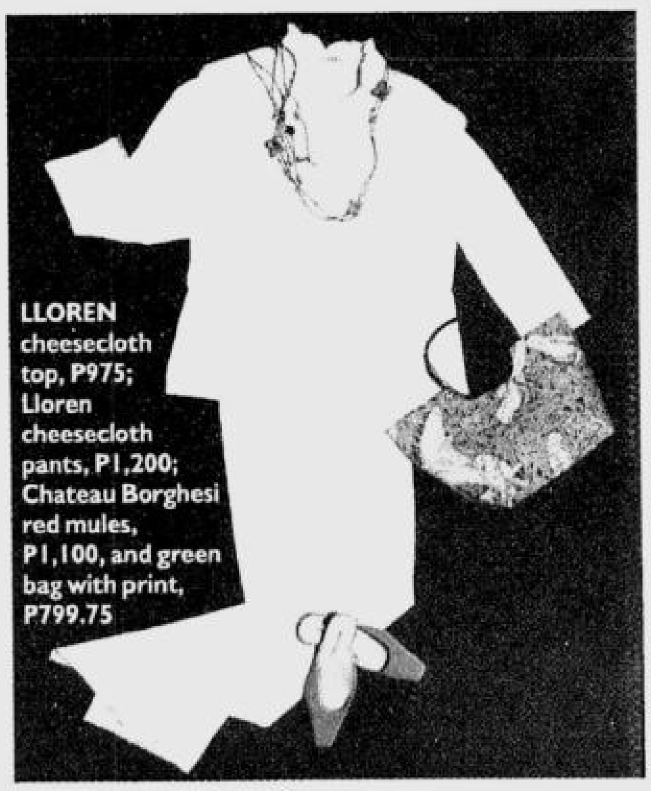
Like, that doesn't happen with purchases from fancy boutiques—at equally fancy prices. In so doing, we miss out on the treasures places like RDS have to offer.

Now we know better. Style shopping should no longer mean going for broke—if you know where your shoes should lead you.

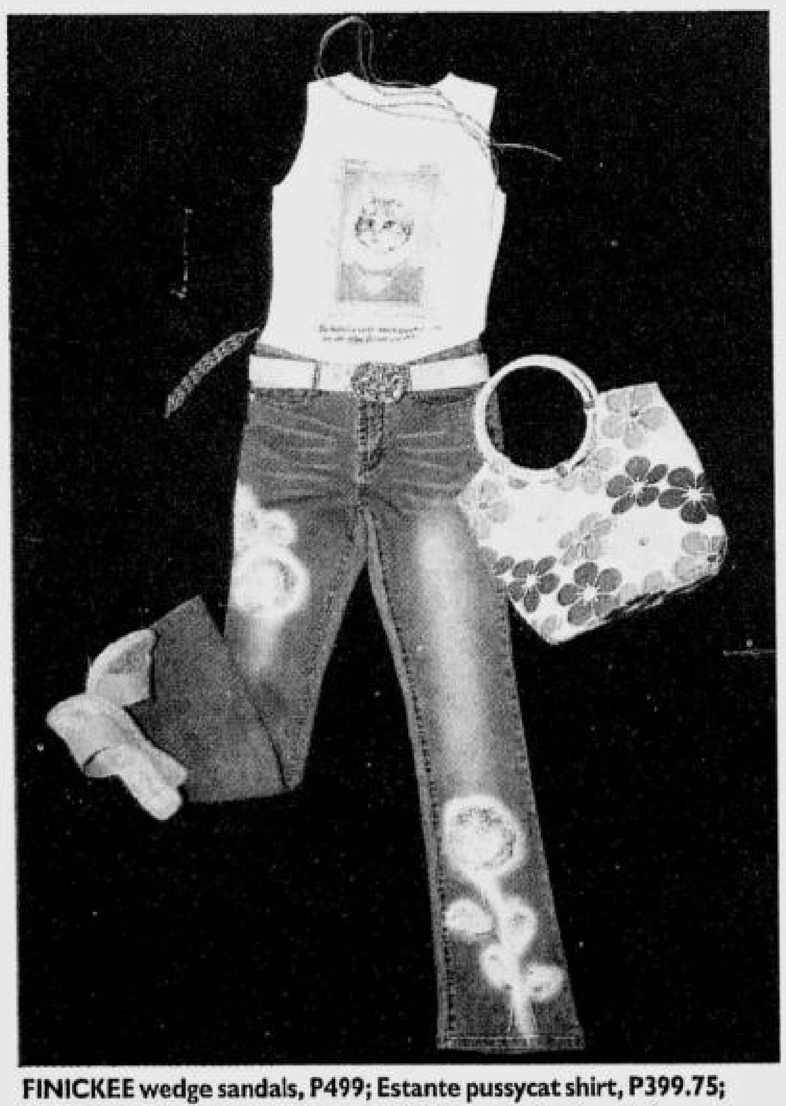
> What's Tessa
>
> Prieto Valdes
>
> doing at RDS?
>
> Would you
>
> believe,
>
> shopping?



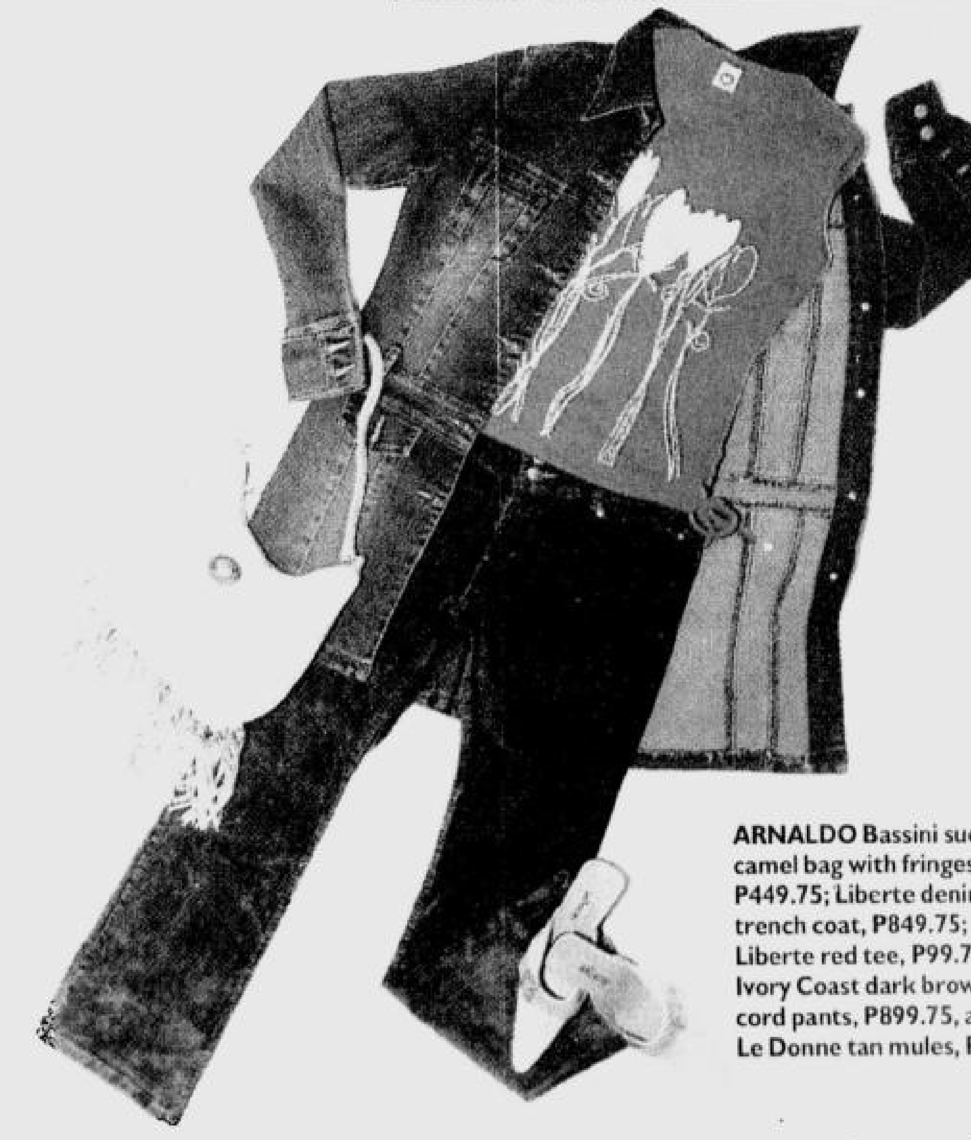
CANDY lime green windbreaker, P549.75; Sybil denim hot pants, P625; Bobson orange tee, P249.75; lime green canvas tote, P269.75, and Bandolino thongs, P489.75



LLOREN cheesecloth top, P975; Lloren cheesecloth pants, P1,200; Chateau Borghesi red mules, P1,100, and green bag with print, P799.75



FINICKEE wedge sandals, P499; Estante pussycat shirt, P399.75; Liberte appliquéd denim jeans, P629.75; green leather string necklace, P14.75; floral canvas bag with wooden handle, P229.75; camel belt with rectangular buckle, P119.75, and Angeline's red-and-silver bracelet, P119.75



ARNALDO Bassini suede camel bag with fringes, P449.75; Liberte denim trench coat, P849.75; Liberte red tee, P99.75; Ivory Coast dark brown cord pants, P899.75, and Le Donne tan mules, P895

Fashion and design competition set

THE FASHION and Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP) and the Garments Textile Export Board (GTEB) will present the Philippine Fashion and Design Competition on Dec. 5, 7 p.m., at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio.

The lucky winners will represent the Philippines in the Concours International des Juenes Createures de Mode Competition in Paris on Dec. 19.

The semi-finalists representing Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and Cagayan are: Eerio Angeles, Avel Bacudlo, Aztec Barba, Popoy Barba, Jean-Paul Cabigon, Lesley Ann Chua, Regine Dulay, Mich Dulce, Dello Gonzales, Rolando Lotho, Paulo Lugtu, John Mare Magallanes, Pablo Mendez, Fernando Mojica, Norman Noriega, Ramil Noveda, Alex Pigao, MitzI Qulilendrino, Jamnes Reyes, Garimon Roferos, Allan Uy and Elizabeth Uy.

A finalist will receive a scholarship grant from the Instituto Europeo Design Moda lab in Milan, Italy.

The event, directed by Ariel Lozada, will be highlighted by the the launching of FDCP's website prepared by Intel, the "Manila Wear" fashion show focusing on denim fabrics provided by Litton Mills, the Bench Red Underwear collection show, and the lifestyle exhibit by FDCP's non-apparel members.

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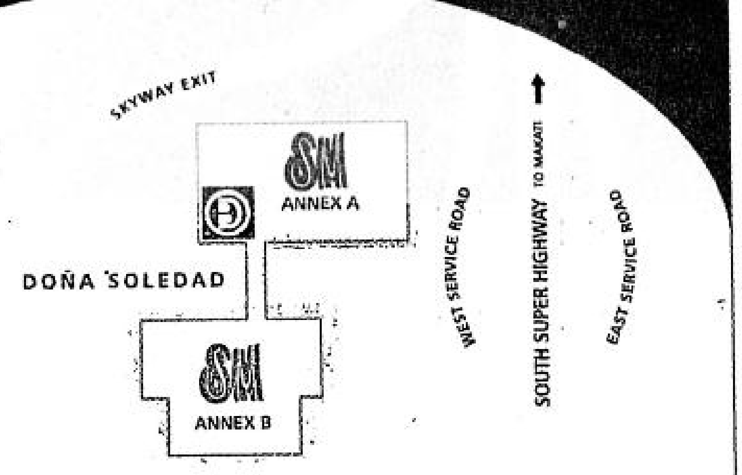

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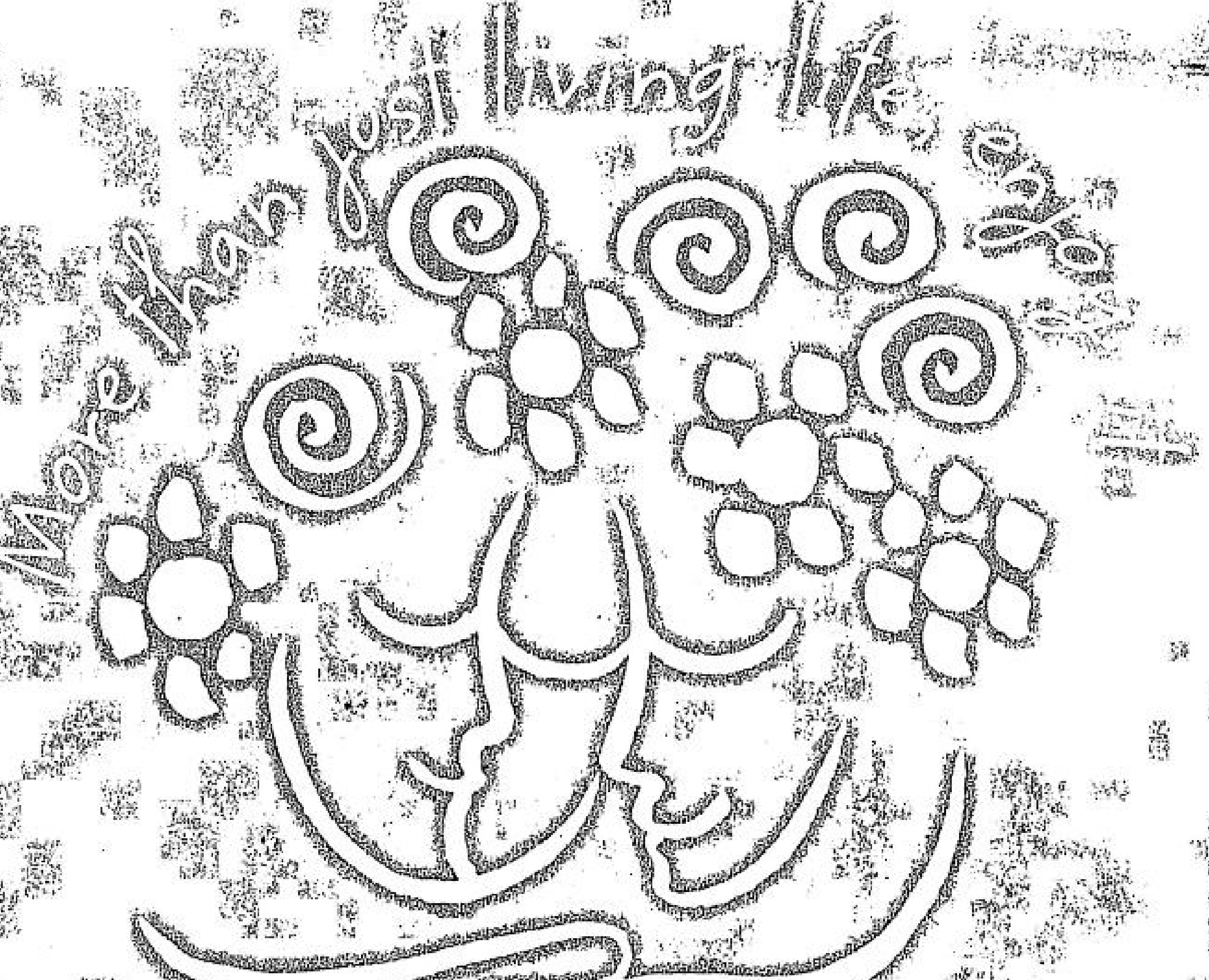
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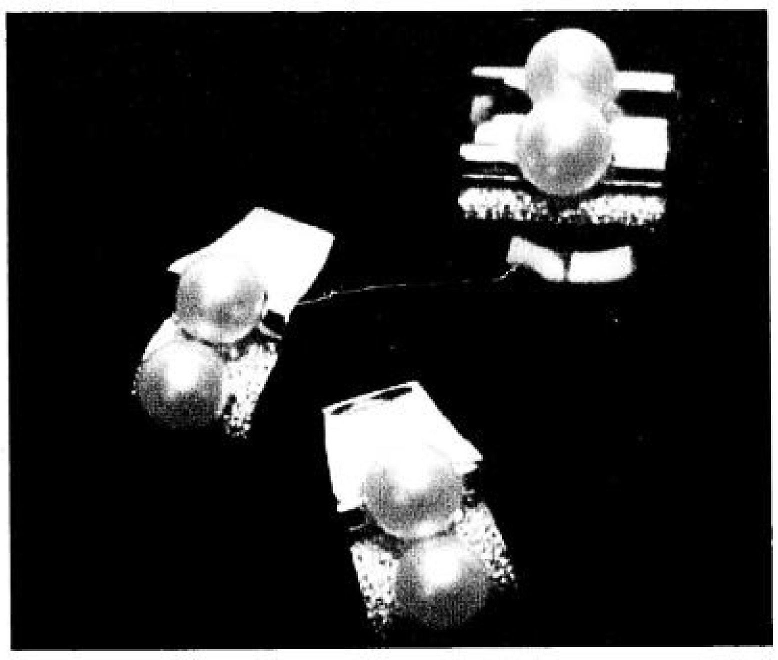
Of camel-colored boots, formal pants and pearls 101



MOVEMENT and flow inspired Jewelmer to design this set of exotic South Sea pearl earrings and a pendant, set in smooth white gold and complemented by the brilliance of a pavé set of diamonds.

From page D8

el-colored belt or bag to complete the look.

If you don't want to spend any more money on additional accessories, you can use whatever black items you already have. The good news is bags, belts and shoes don't have to strictly match these days so you can maximize the use of just a few basics.

You can also start investing in tops or pants in camel, beige or cream so you can mix and match them with your black items and camel boots. Black top, camel trousers and your boots will look clean, classic and chic. Same goes for camel top, black pants and your boots.

The important thing to remember is to keep things simple and minimal. Stick to two colors at a time so you don't look too busy or colorful.

Many other hues will go with your camel boots. Should you decide to wear your boots with blue jeans or camel pants, match them with tops in blood red, plain white, deep purple, bright orange and so on. You can also go monochromatic by wearing different tones of camel from head to foot. Or look light, fresh and breezy by matching white and camel.

The choices are endless. Don't be afraid to experiment and to try different, new combinations. If you are ever in doubt, employ the help of a style-savvy friend whose taste you admire and trust.

I don't like wearing dresses because of my varicose veins. For evening affairs, what kind of pants should I wear so I don't look too casual? Where can I buy them?

As I mentioned in my column last Friday, more than cut, color or design, it is fabric that determines when and where a particular article of clothing can be worn. The hottest designers abroad have even turned rugged cargo pants into evening wear by using luxury fabrics.

The first thing you should do, however, is to determine how formal an affair is before deciding on wearing a pair of pants. Some invitations might specify "strictly formal," which means you will have to wear a gown or a very formal dress. And although affairs now are more modern, thus allowing the use of dressy trousers, it is still better to check with the host or those closest to him.

There are several styles of pants to choose from. You can use Thai silk slim-cut, stovepipe pants that look modern and streamlined. Or wear rich-looking brocade capris that are full of character and personality. There are also pure silk pajama or palazzo pants that are more comfortable but just as dressy. You can even don manly tuxedo pants made feminine by soft ruffled blouses. Just remember to choose pants that are made of evening fabrics like satin, silk, taffeta or brocade, to name a few.

Pants like those mentioned are available in boutiques like Mango, Wink Rhett Eala, DKNY, Wai Pai, Anne Klein, Episode, Homme et Femme and stores like Rustan's that carry several different brands. Make your trousers look more formal and exciting by using extra-chic accessories such as a beaded evening purse, satin stilettos, drop earrings or a fabulous collar of diamonds (faux or real, depending on what you can afford).

But you might also want to consider having your varicose veins permanently removed. Dr. Rommel Caballes, a dermatological surgeon, suggests Sclerotherapy, a way of killing blood vessels through the injection of irritants such as Polydopanol that he normally uses, or hypertonic saline. Dr. Caballes says, "When you kill blood vessels, you divert blood towards healthier veins, thereby reducing the size and appearance of varicose veins."

You may also undergo laser treatment such as Pulsed Dye Laser or Intense Pulse Light (IPL) or a combination of Sclerotherapy and laser to eliminate varicose veins. Larger veins can be removed through surgical means or what is known as vein stripping.

Sclerotherapy costs P2,000 per session. Depending on the size of the vein, you will need an average of 4-6 sessions, 2 to 3 weeks apart. For more information, you may contact Dr. Caballes in his clinic at Medical Plaza Ortigas at 635-7959.

I finally have some extra money that I can use to buy a pair of South Sea pearl studs, which have been on my wish list for years. It's a bit confusing though because they come in so many colors, shapes and sizes. What basics should I know before choosing a pair?

South Sea pearls are true classics that every woman should have. No less than Vogue magazine, US edition waxed romantic about these lustrous, exotic gems in one of its features a couple of years ago. It even named the Philippines as a primary source, so finding the right pair should be easy enough for you.

Technically, natural pearls are merely orbs of calcium carbonate that form around a grain of sand inside an oyster. Pearls may be produced in sea/salt or fresh water and there are several different types such as the Japanese Akoya, Chinese fresh water and the South Sea variety.

What distinguish South Sea pearls from other kinds are basically size, which ranges from 9mm to 20mm in diameter (baroque-shaped pearls can grow as big as 40 mm!), and the fact that they are produced in sea/salt water in the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia and even Tahiti, among others. Nowadays, it is very difficult to find naturally grown pearls. They are normally cultured by injecting a nucleus into the oyster and letting this grow into a pearl.

Angela Poblador, marketing manager of Jewelmer International, a leading supplier and retailer of pearls here and abroad, says that quality is determined by different factors: shape, color, size, skin purity, luster and orient (iridescence).

Pearl shapes vary from round, oval to baroque, an irregular shape that is favored by Europeans. It also comes in an array of colors. White-lipped oysters produce white, champagne and golden pearls (golden pearls are the rarest though not necessarily the most expensive kind) while black-lipped oysters produce black, grey, silver and greenish pearls.

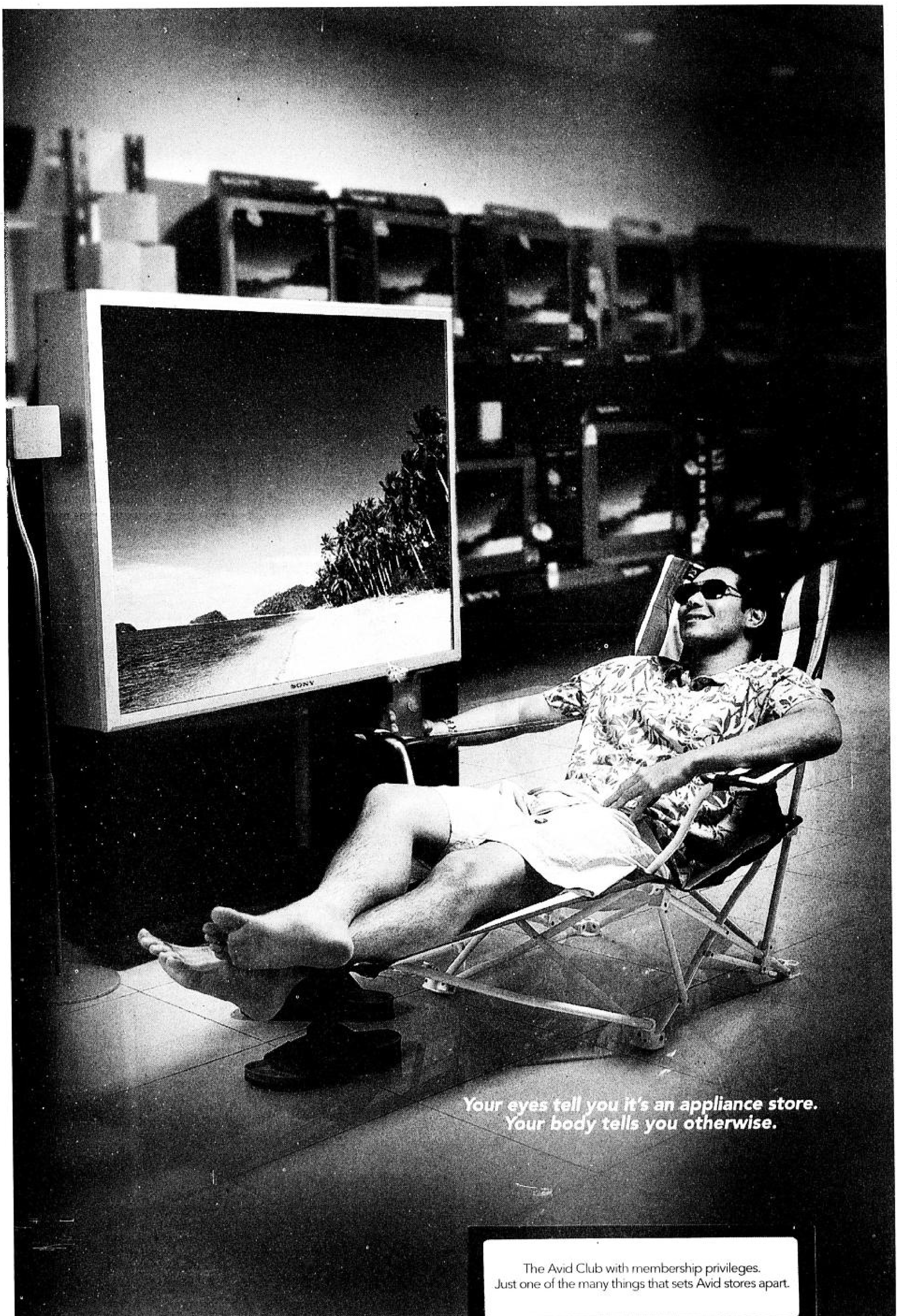
Generally speaking, the bigger the pearl, the more expensive it is, although other factors are also taken into consideration. Meanwhile, skin purity refers to how flawless a pearl's surface is. Pearls with slight flaws like bumps and nicks are usually lower in price, although there are people who prefer pearls with minor imperfections. These people feel that the flaws indicate that the pearl is genuine.

The most important factors are luster and orient. Angela says, "Luster refers to shine and luminosity while orient is all about a pearl's inner glow. The sharper your mirrored image is on a pearl, the better the orient."

A balance of all these factors then determines price. Since this will be your first pair, I am inclined to suggest that you invest in the classic round, white type that is around 10mm in size. But as always, consider your own personal style and preference.

"Don't let convention limit you in your choice of pearls. Always choose according to your personality, body type, skin tone and so on. Nowadays, people are more open to other colors like black and gold and more modern, exciting designs besides the basic strand," Angela adds.

Email the author at apsadvice@hotmail.coms



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Super shopping at Super SM Bicutan

Super SM Hypermarket brings super choices, super prices and a super shopping experience with the opening of its branch in Bicutan.

Super SM is a take-off from the European hypermarket concept which combines supermarket, general merchandise and discount retailing.

Super SM provides one-stop shopping convenience by combining a carefully selected range of food and general merchandise items. The spacious 9,000 square meter hypermarket in Bicutan is designed to save customers time and money, and at the same time enhance the total shopping experience.

The store features over a dozen general merchandise departments including women's, men's, children's and infant's wear and accessories; a full line of shoes; houseware and furniture; appliance; games, magazines and hardware items.

SUPER SM HYPERMARKET
FRESH market SPECIALS

The hypermarket's much talked-about food area includes the freshest picks at the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable section; the choicest cuts at the Meat and Poultry section; and a wide range of dairy and deli as well as grocery items.

And what could be better than fresh? Available daily at the Seafood section are fresh catch such as live *Lapu-Lapu*, *tilapia*, catfish *(hito)*, mudfish *(dalag)*, lobster as well as shellfish.

Bakery SPECIALS

The Bakery section is also popular with shoppers. Available fresh from the oven are locally-baked goodies such as *hot pandesal*, *ensaymada*, Spanish bread, muffins, sugar-raised donuts as well as Italian breads like *foccacia*, *ciabatta* and even super slices of pizza!

Not to be missed is the Rotisserie section which offers ready-to-go food items such as succulent whole roasted chicken for only P99 and roasted liempo for only P79.

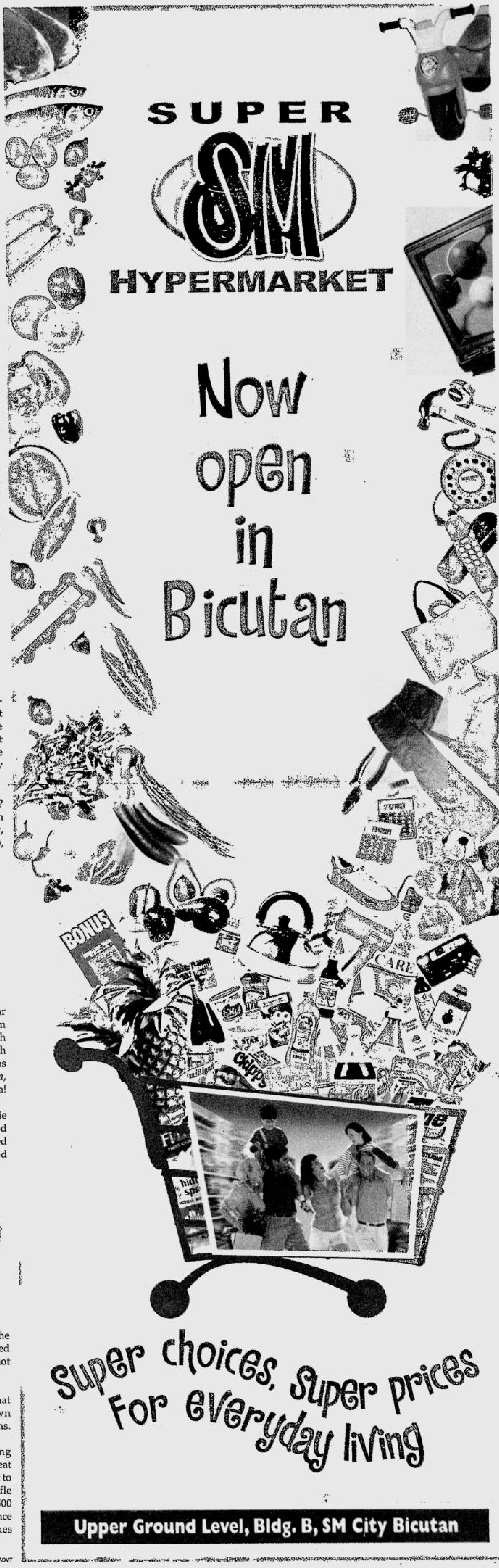
Sushi Bar

Another customer favorite is the Sushi Bar which offers fresh hand-rolled *sushi*, *onigiri*, *maki* and even piping hot miso soup!

Sushi is even sold by piece so that customers can create their own combination of Japanese food items.

Apart from a super shopping experience, Super SM also offers great promos. Bringing a lot of excitement to shoppers is the **Shop 'n' Win** raffle promo where shoppers with a P500 minimum purchase will get the chance to win P10,000 worth of gift cheques daily.

ADVT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Shop 'n' WIN
P1,000,000 grand draw
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Even more excitement is at stake with the grand prize of **P1,000,000** in cash for the last quarter of 2002. The grand draw will be held on January 18, 2003.

VALUE PACK
Guaranteed lowest price in town!

With savings of up to 80%, the **Value Packs** have gained such demand among customers that lines practically form just to avail of these items. A **Value Pack** consists of two featured items plus a free SM Bonus item.

Not only super savings and discounts are in store for Super SM shoppers but great fun as well.

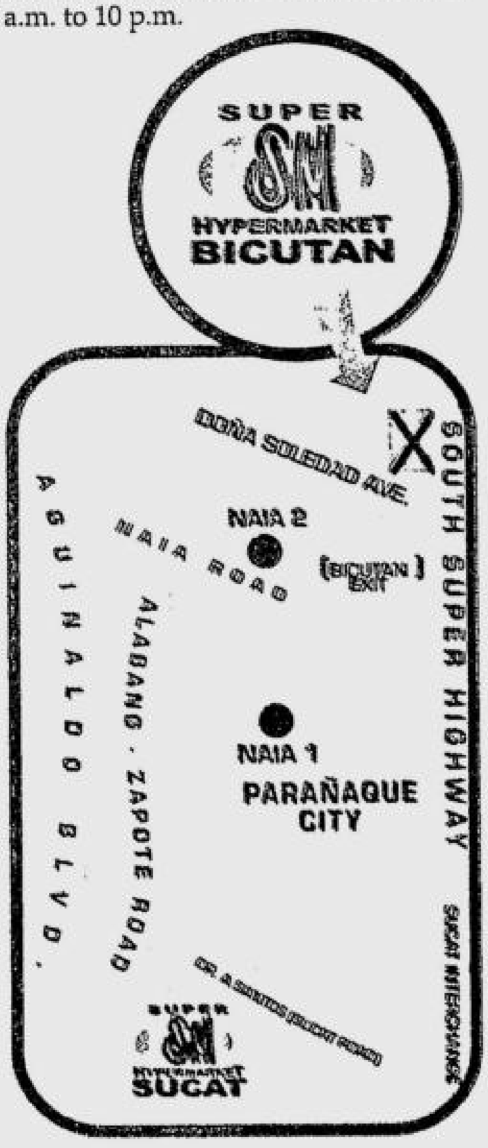
play 'n' Win

The **Play 'n' Win** promo encourages shoppers to participate in an interactive game where they can get as much as a P500 price-off on appliance, shoes, toys and other branded items.

Completing the super shopping experience is the walkalator, where one can wheel down his purchases in shopping carts straight down the well-ventilated parking area.

Likewise, shoppers can purchase prepaid phone and internet cards, pay utility bills and purchase show tickets at the Customer Service counter. They can also have their gifts wrapped, avail of mailing, photocopying as well as film developing services. What's more, customers can even have prescription glasses made at the hypermarket.

Super SM Hypermarket Bicutan is located at the Upper Ground Level, Building B, SM City Bicutan along Doña Soledad Avenue corner South Superhighway. Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.



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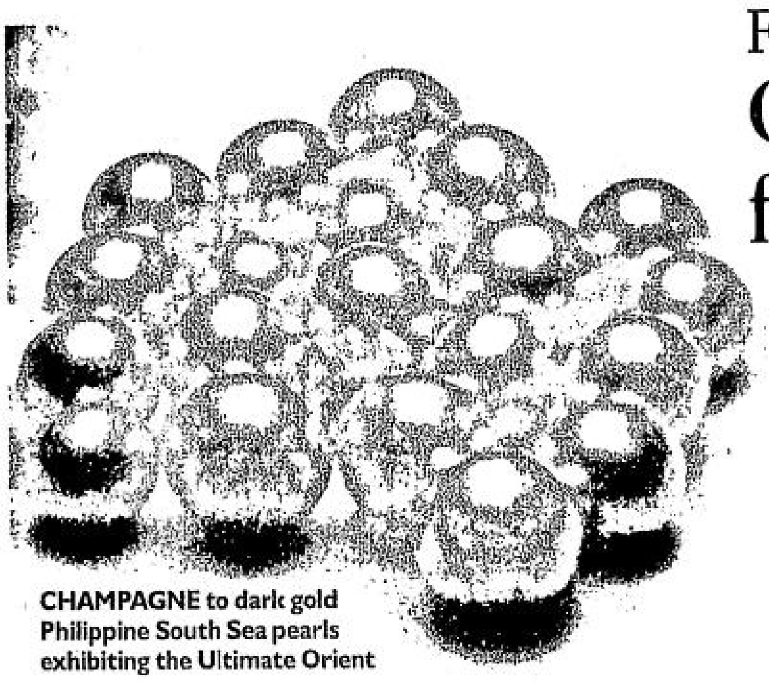


CHAMPAGNE to dark gold Philippine South Sea pearls exhibiting the Ultimate Orient

FASHION ADVICE

Of camel-colored boots, formal pants and pearls 101

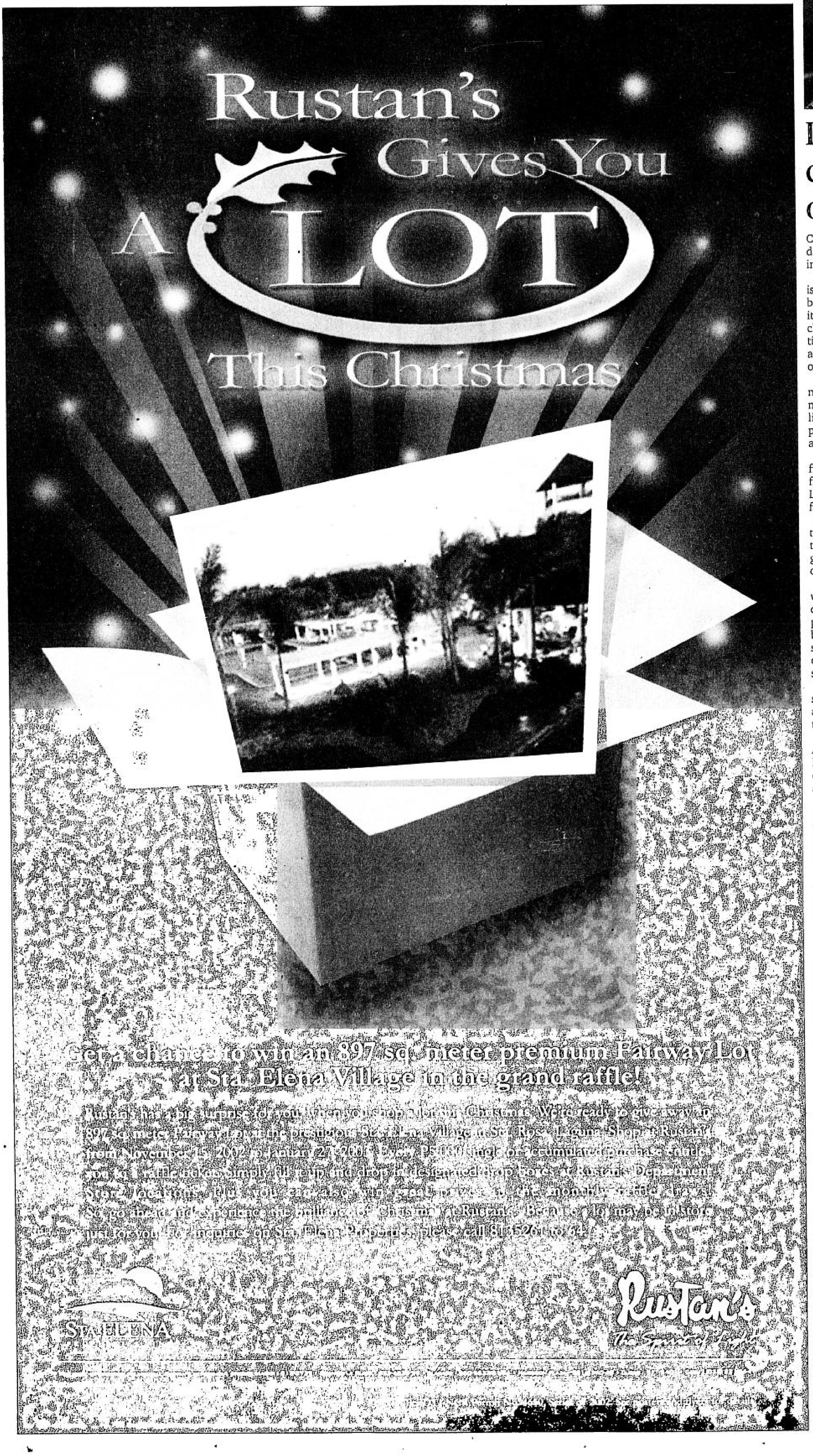
By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

PLEASE tell me what I can wear with a pair of camel-colored boots. I bought a pair last season and I still can't figure out what to wear with them. My wardrobe consists mostly of black items so I don't understand why I got the camel pair instead of black. I would really appreciate a fashionista's advice.

A camel-colored boots are stylish basics that you can wear with almost anything. In fact, they're the perfect foil for all your black articles of clothing and accessories. Plus, camel is a neutral color that will match most other hues.

One option would be to wear your boots with an all-black ensemble. Black top, pants and your boots will make you look long, lean and fashionable. If you wish, you can use a

OF/D6



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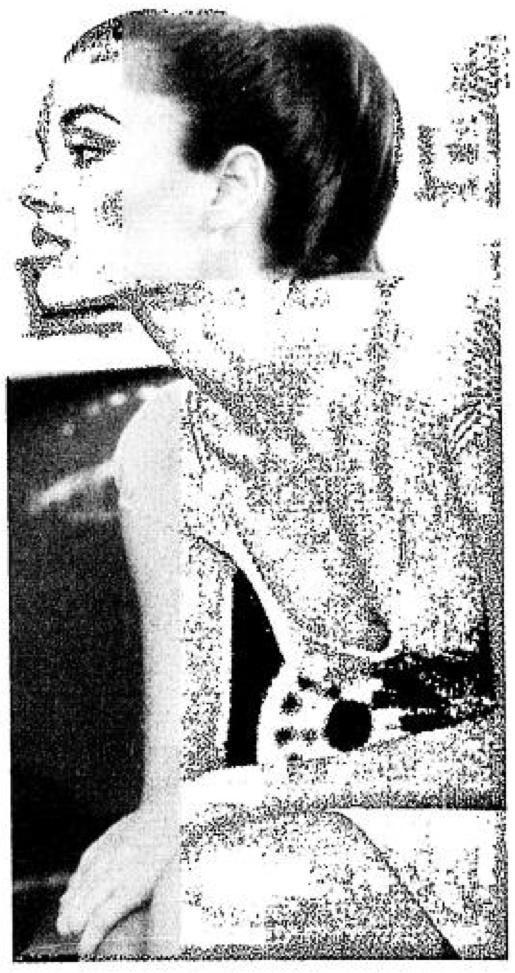
STA. ELENA

Rustan's



Lingerie captures colors of season

COSABELLA captures the richness of the holiday season's festive colors, fabrics and styles in its Holiday collection 2002.

Red, one of the hottest colors of Christmas, is found in the deep ruby color and gold combination of the popular Amy lace group with items such as cropped camisole, bustier, chemise and hot pants. Delicate and decorative bustiers, tops, dresses and skirts are available for holiday parties and festivities in various styles and fabrics.

Reflecting the elegance and simplicity of its northern Italy namesake, Verona lingerie is made of leaver lace in black and nude. The line also offers a boy thong that is like the popular hot pants, but more revealing, as well as a camisole and string.

The Limoges group uses lace that looks like fine embroidery reminiscent of the delicate flowers hand-painted on the famous French Limoges porcelain. Bustier and thong are offered in ruby and black.

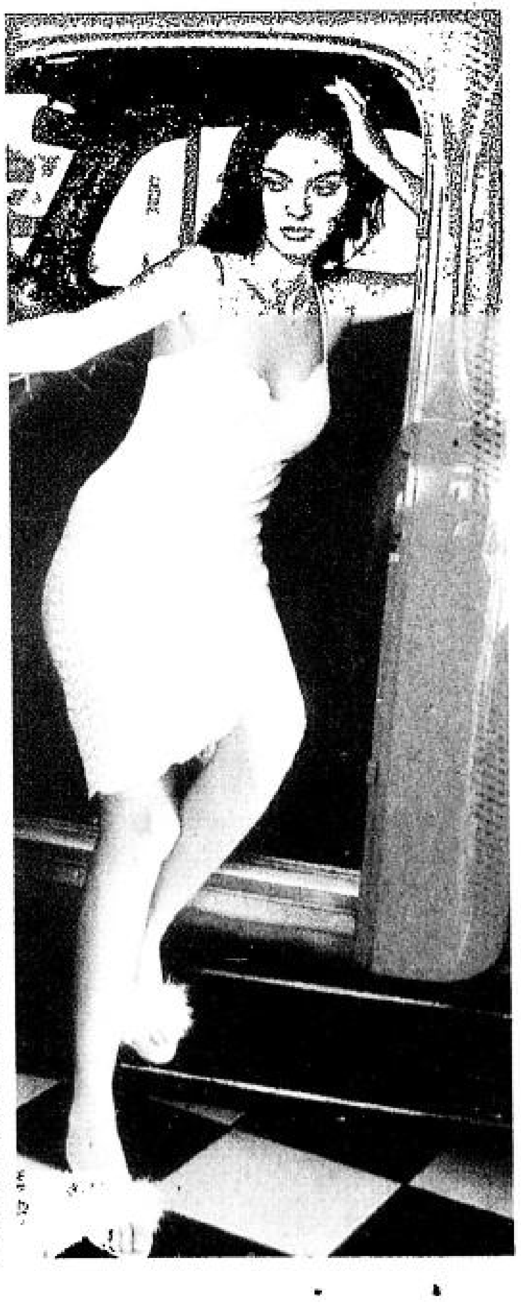
The Cira group uses fabric of very fine net that is appliquéd with delicate fall leaves for a three dimensional effect. It offers three elegant and sophisticated items including a chemise, bustier and dress.

Casablanca's fabric is a paper thin, two-way stretch nude base with extraordinarily delicate embroidery creating a tattoo-like impression. It was introduced last season in black and will be offered in ruby this holiday season. It is available in a baby doll, bra, camisole, hot pants with a tulle back and string thong.

The Versailles group of eyelet lace with scalloped edges, is offered in ruby and available in bra, dustier, crop camisole, string thong, crop pants, skirt and boxers.

Traditionally available in black and red, the Amy group's red/gold combination in stretch leaver lace will be available in bra, cropped camisole, bustier, chemise, hot pants, g-string and thong.

Founded in 1983, Cosabella, one of the leading designers of intimate apparel in the world, is based in Miami, Florida and manufactured in Italy. It is exclusively available at Loungerie inside Wish, Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Call 867-3852.



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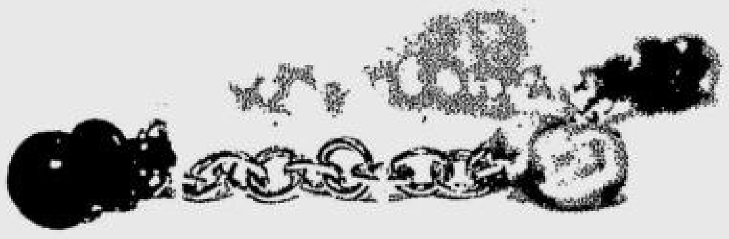

Romance of jade

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

JADE, the centuries-old royal Chinese gemstone, has just been re-invented by a Swiss-born gentleman.

Leading jewelry designer Hans Brumann says that the most important element in the making of jewelry is the quest for new ideas. Thus, in his latest collection, Brumann creates for the select few very stylish yet classic pieces that highlight the beauty and mystery of jade. "Jade has a strong history and is very interesting to work with," he says.

According to the Antique Jade website, the Chinese have had a love affair with jade for thousands of years. In a 1988 exhibition at the China Institute in New York, it was established that jade carving and use were started 7,000 years ago, making the trade an ancient design industry.

The appeal of jade to the ancient Chinese was due to its toughness, luster, multiplicity of colors and the transformation it underwent when heated. It is said Confucius compared the qualities of jade to those of a cultured gentleman.

Brumann, who began his apprenticeship in jewelry-making in Zurich in 1957, has been in the Philippines since 1967, working with the most prestigious firm at that time, La Estrella Del Norte. In 1976, he formed Hans Brumann, Inc. It was after establishing his own company that his craft truly flourished.

Classic minimalism

Brumann is known for his strong minimalist and classic approach. A Brumann piece is quite distinctive. In creating designs, Brumann first searches for the stones then works around its natural beauty. "The pieces I make should be timeless. Lasting through a lifetime if possible," he says.

The latest collection consists of treasures that can be passed from one generation to another. In fact, three generations of loyal clientele have been coming to Hans Brumann's shops to buy his beautiful pieces. On the day of the collection's launch at the Podium, most of

ROMANCE/ E4

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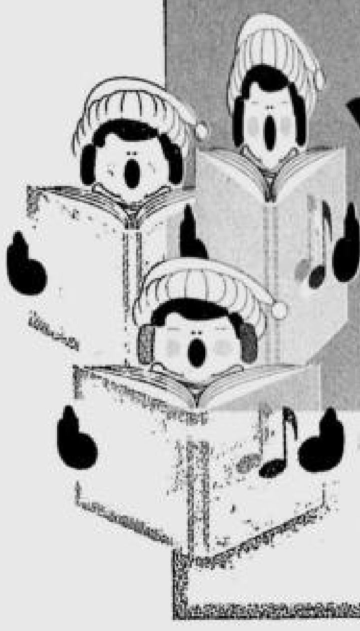

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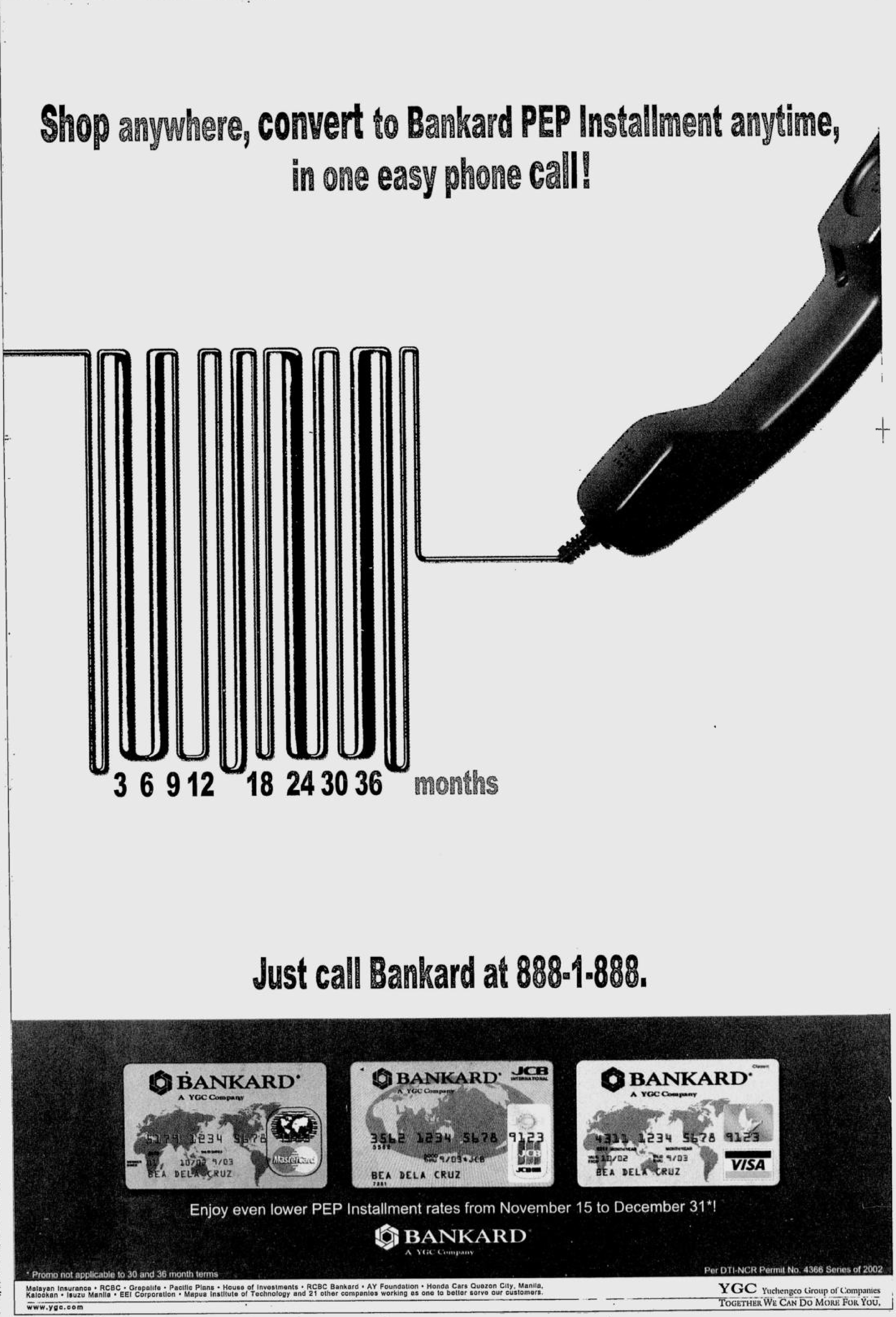

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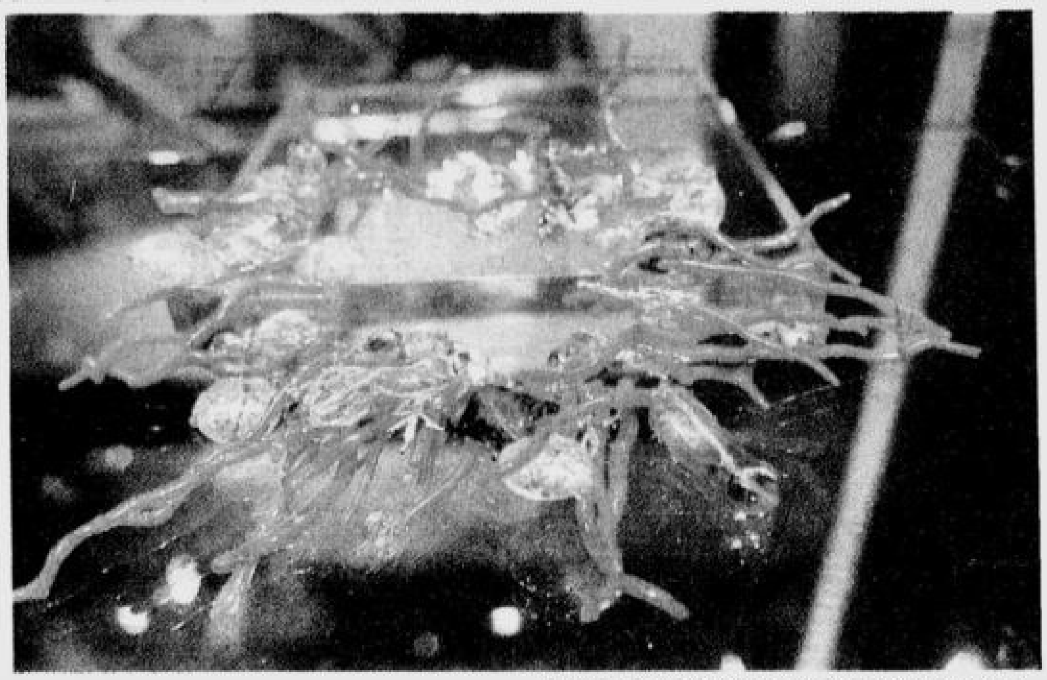
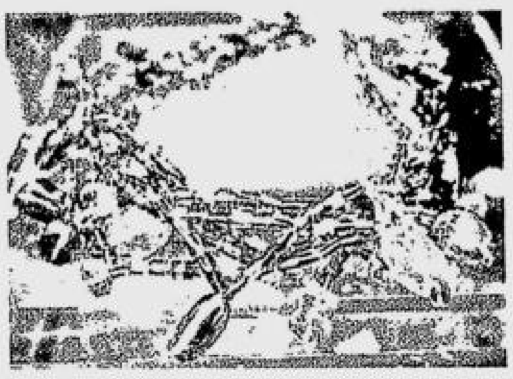


NECKLACE of antique Italian coral, Russian amber, faceted citrine, yellow quartz, gold branches and hand-blown gold-flecked glass beads from Murano

In the grip of the dragon



SEVEN-STRAND necklace of smoky quartz with dangles of faceted citrine, gold-plated hand-blown glass, faceted and tumbled brown quartz

From page E8

even calcified salt.

A number of well-heeled women came with only their gowns on their backs. Josephine Knox purposely came "bare" to the affair since she felt sure she'd be able to get a piece or two from Ong's latest collection. True enough, she did. She snapped up a necklace pieced together with polished Italian coral and Baltic amber with matching bracelet. Like a number of Firma's guests, Knox later graced the "Festival of Trees," a yearly art auction at the Manila Polo Club.

"It was wise of her to come early," says Toledo. "Wynn Wynn's pieces were disappearing fast."

In keeping with the evening's theme, the inimitable Tessa Prieto-Valdes came to the party as a Tibetan princess complete with dangling accents and yellow roses stuck to her braided hair extension. Mons Tantoco looked regal in ametrine and purple quartz. Lizette Cojuangco fell in love with a sculptural cuff of tourmalines, while Leica Carpo and Malu Gamboa were fascinated by several pairs of aquamarine earrings from Brazil.

Up to date

Gaita Forés, another Ong fan, was dazzled by the exquisite pieces. Unable to make up his mind between two crosses, one made of topaz, the other made of pearls, Rachy Cuna got both. Karla Delgado, upon Maurice Archache's advice, bought the fused pearl bracelet.

"Even last year's pieces still managed to look so up-to-date," says Toledo. "The only difference between this year and last year's edition is the presence of a dragon-shaped clasp." Actually, the trademark clasp sets Naga jewelry apart from me-too pieces that have sprung in the market lately.

"Every item is new," Ong says. "I only make one-of-kind-pieces using a wide range of materials that catches my fancy during my travels. I set aside all the pieces on the table or in bed and work endlessly until I get an item right. I normally don't have any preconceived ideas of what I intend to do. Every piece I do is guided by my instinct and intuition."

IN THE GRIP/ E3

TESSA Prieto-Valdes

Sexbomb girls
BMG
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Wish ko sa Pasko

"Wish ko lang"
Ever Gotesco Malls desire to share the spirit of a bountiful Christmas with a community of aetas at Sitio Calumpang. This will be manifested through GMA 7's TV Program "Wish Ko Lang" episode on Dec. 14.
Wish Ko Lang · Ever Supermarket

Wish ko... Mag-Party ngayong Pasko!
Our dear shoppers, no reason not to go to Ever Gotesco Malls for a fun-filled party! Expect plenty of surprises and a whole day of Christmas Partying from 10am-4pm at **Ever Ortigas on Dec. 21** and **Ever Commonwealth on Dec. 22.**
Ice Cream Nestlé

Wish ko kay Santa...
Ho...ho...ho... Santa is coming to Ever Gotesco Malls. Kids! Be at **Ever Ortigas on Dec. 14** and at **Ever Commonwealth on Dec. 15** to meet and say your wishes to Santa. Who knows, these wishes of yours might come true this Christmas.
See posters for more details.
PHOTOLINE · FOTOFINISH · Canon CAMERA · SOLID GOLD COLOR FILM

We wish you a Merry Christmas... Caroling Serenade
Caroling at the Mall? Yes indeed! Choir groups shall visit the stores of Ever Gotesco Malls to sing all-time favorite Christmas Carols from Dec. 9 to 22. Come and let's watch them in a show on:
Dec. 20 at Ever Manila Plaza
Dec. 21 at Ever Ortigas
Dec. 22 at Ever Commonwealth

Wish mo...Isulat Mo!
Visit "Give a Gift" booths at all Ever Gotesco Malls and donate through "GIFTS FOR A CAUSE" to get an ornament card where you can write your wishes for Christmas! Decorate our Christmas tree with your card and at the same time help make a handful of cancer-stricken kids feel the joy of the Season.

Wish ko sa Pasko- The Sexbomb Girls in Concert
Ever Commonwealth on Dec: 1 at 4pm
Ever Ortigas on Dec. 6 at 4pm
homeworks

Ever GOTESCO malls
ORTIGAS • COMMONWEALTH • GRAND CENTRAL • RECTO

LEICA Carpo, Edna Chua and Ingrid Go

RERET Bonoan and Henri Calayag

JOSEPHINE Knox

JOE Salazar

In the grip of the dragon

From page E2

Ong also does commissions. Rosemarie Lancos, for instance, missed her preferred piece by several minutes, but husband Paul came to the rescue by asking Ong to do a similar piece.

Even if she wants to, however, Ong can never come up with a faithful replica for a commissioned piece. First, the finished product will depend on the availability of materials. Like some combinations are barely good enough for a set of necklace and bracelet. Second, she herself can't predict the outcome of a certain piece. Finally, there are certain combinations that just won't work.

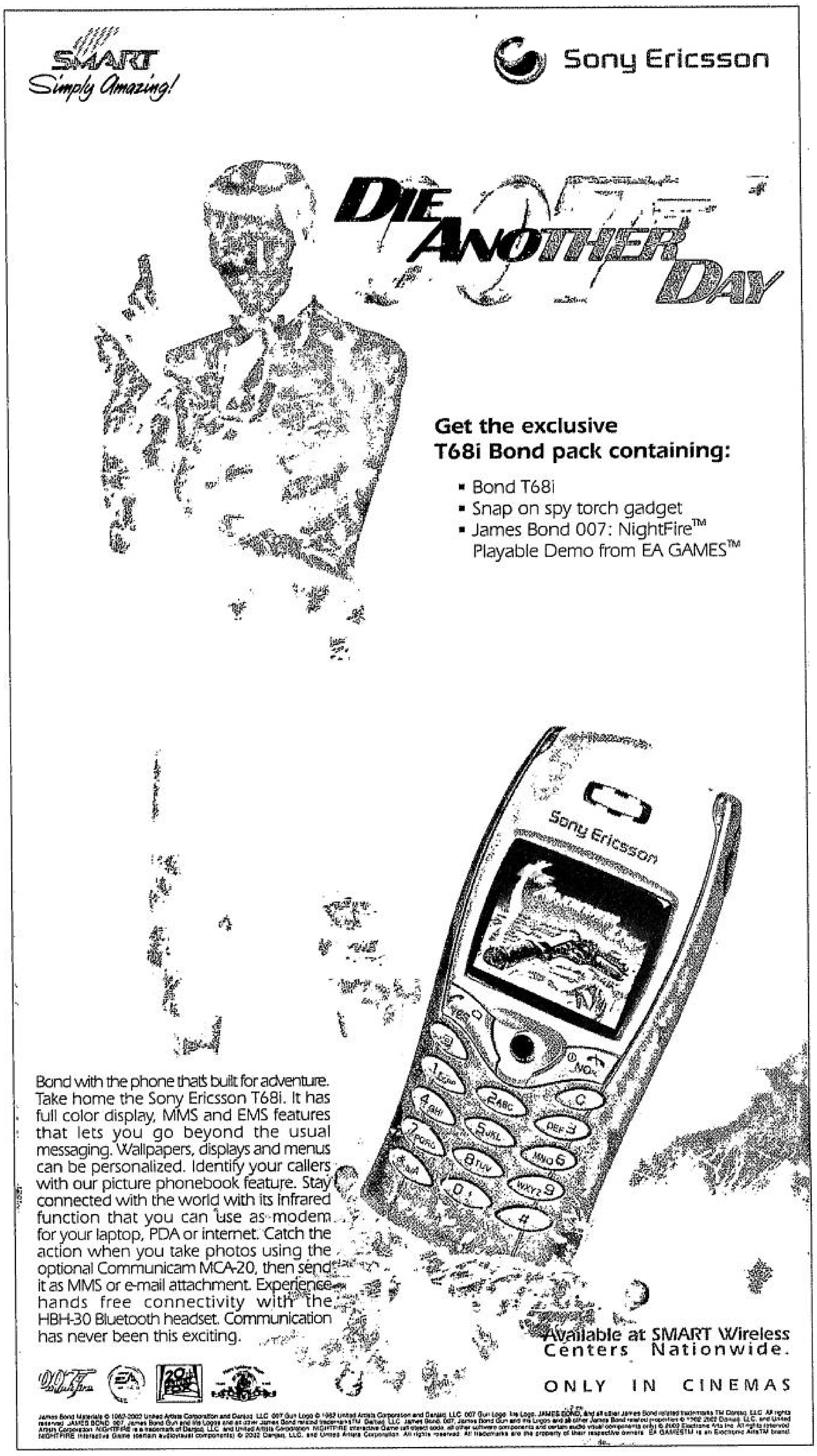
"They just have to trust me," she says. "If they don't like the finished product, fine. I can always wear it myself."

The same attention to detail went into Firma's Tibetan collection, some of which are over 150 years old. Dragons and other mythical motifs are embossed and painted on cabinets, chests, canvas and wood panels. Classical *thangkhas* depict deities with a painstaking meticulousness to details. The designs were executed by master artists who followed a complex set of rules for each image.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

BEN Chan, Chito Vijandre and Miguel Pastor

KARLA Delgado, Wynn Wynn Ong, Ging Gonzalez-Montinola and Tesa Celdran



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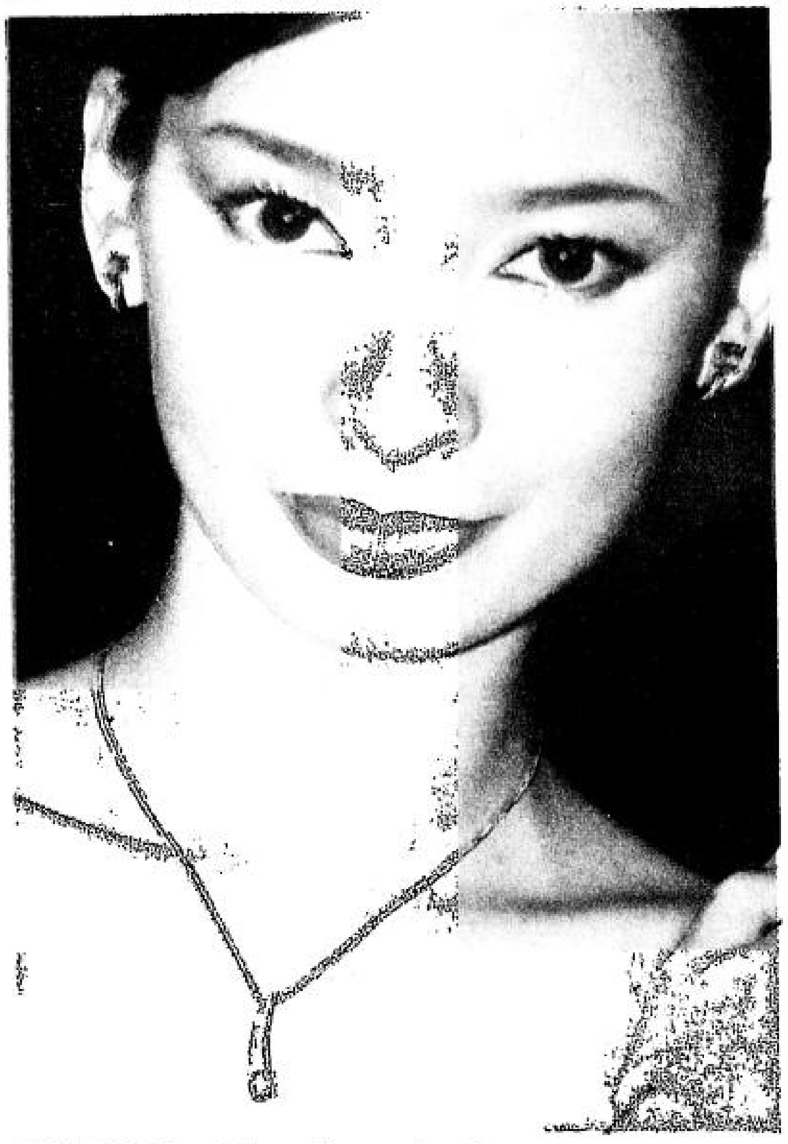
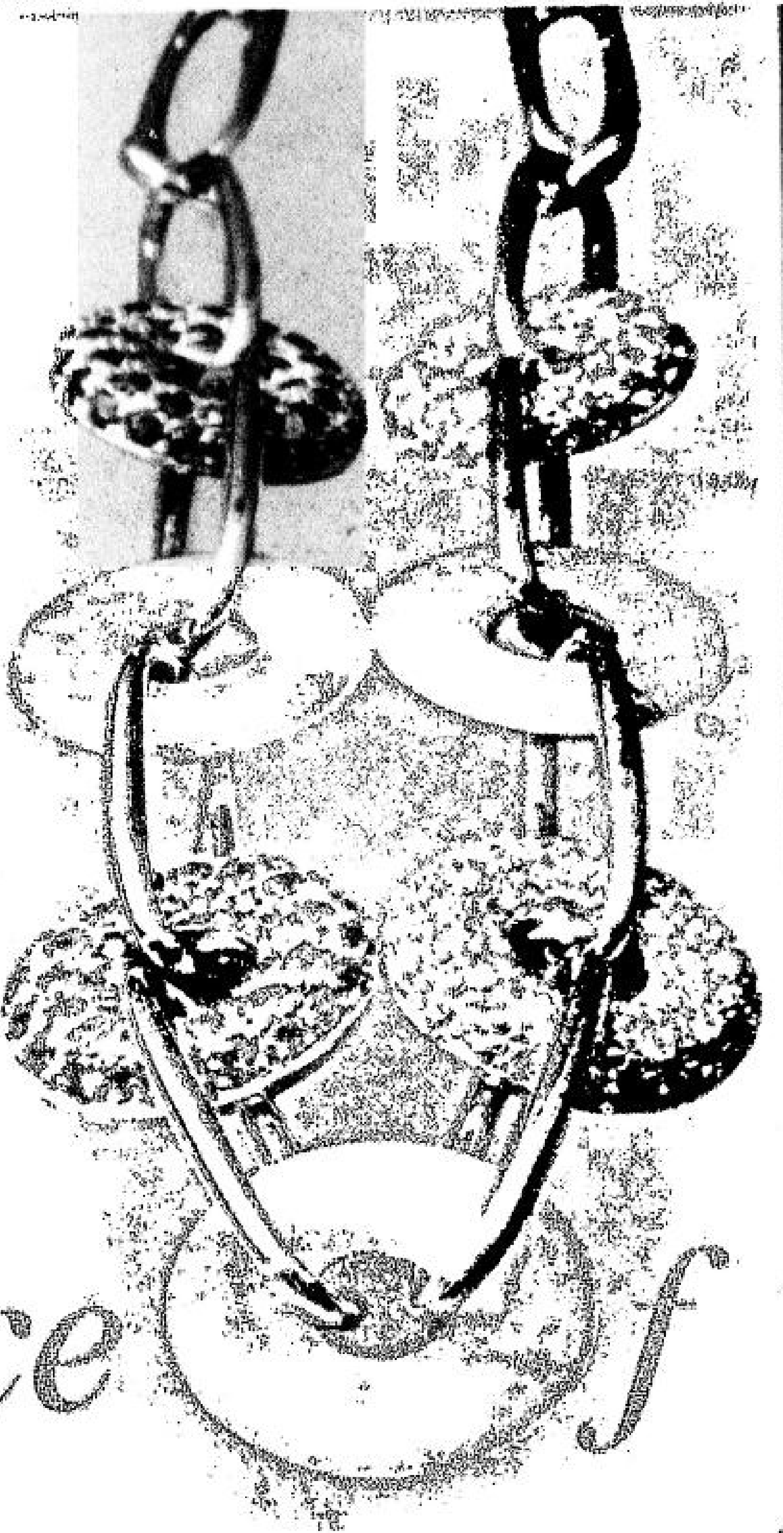
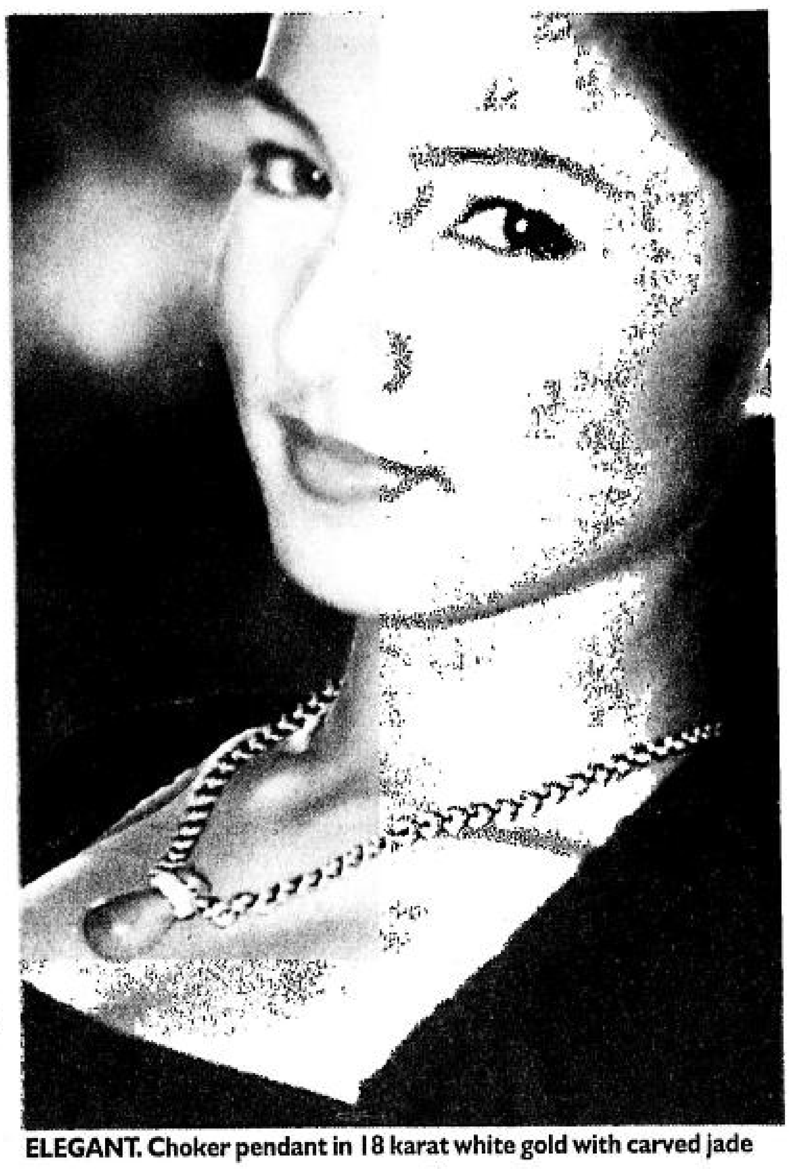

PRETTY. Delicate jade necklace and earrings.




ELEGANT. Choker pendant in 18 karat white gold with carved jade

Romance of jade

Hans Brumann turns his legendary skill at fashioning romantic pieces out of a gem that has a brilliant 7,000-year history behind it

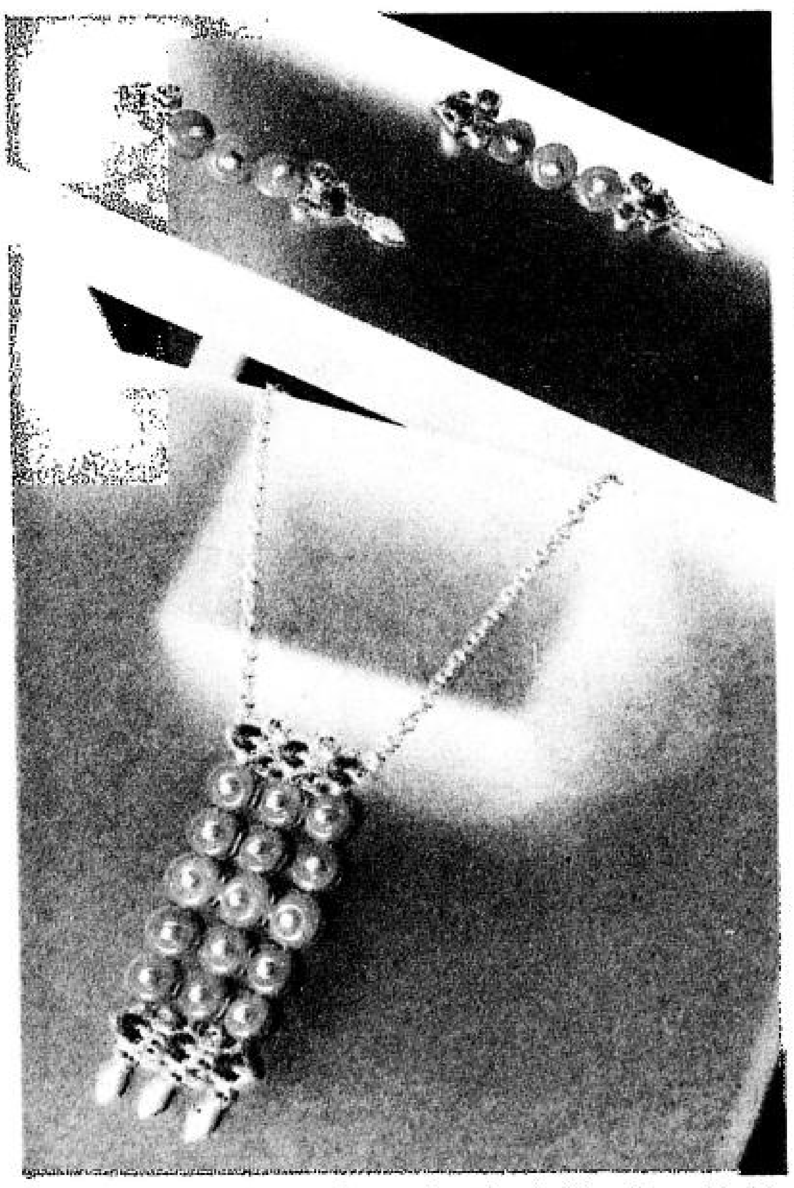
From page E1

the items for sale had already been reserved or sold.

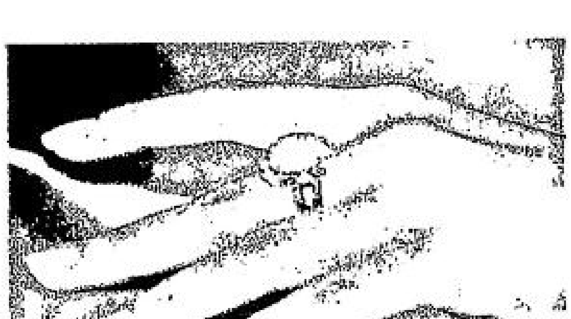
For this particular collection, Brumann fashioned elegant chokers, bracelets, necklaces and pendants using jade in various colors, quartz, sapphire, turquoise and other precious stones most of them set in 18-karat yellow gold. There are approximately 50 designs in this collection and some of them, especially the pricier ones, are one of a kind. The pieces are priced from an affordable P500 to a precious P395,000. They are available for viewing and sale at the HEMM Hans Brumann shop at the Podium in Ortigas Center.

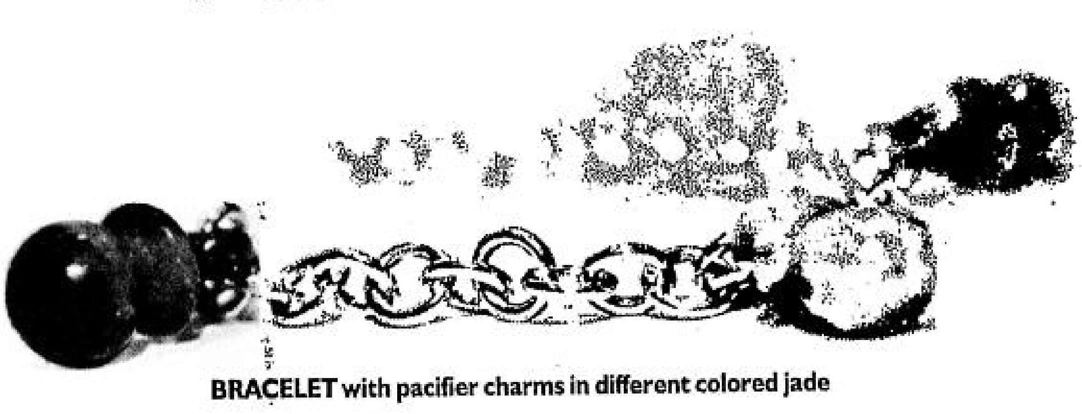
Turquoise set in 18karat white gold

JADE and quartz necklace with silver lock


BROWN JADE. Choker-pendant and earrings in 18k yellow gold with jade, amethyst and garnet

HANS Brumann reinvents jade


CLASSIC. Turquoise ring set in white gold


BRACELET with pacifier charms in different colored jade

Writers talk about terrorism in PEN annual meeting

GOINGS ON

LITERATURE. Peace and terrorism will be the focus of discussions among the country's leading writers in the 2002 National Conference of the Philippine Center of International PEN to be held tomorrow at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Paco, Manila.

The conference will be highlighted by this year's Jose Rizal lecture to be delivered by former Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz.

Michael Mastura will keynote the conference and is expected to talk about writers in Mindanao.

The conference has been made possible through the help of the Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation, PAGCOR, SM Inc. and Solidaridad Bookshop.

BAZAAR. The Bazaar for L.I.F.E., to be held Dec. 7-8 at The Metro Club (across Rockwell Center), promises to be one of the shopping events of the year with over a hundred booths for shoppers to choose from. The bazaar follows the successful Christmas at 2002 Shop Expo. Call 687-0654/2955.

FUND DRIVE. The Salvation Army (TSA), a London-based international Christian church, will launch its Christmas Kettle fund drive tomorrow, 3 p.m., at the SM City Food Court. Australian Ambassador Ruth Lorraine Pierce, TSA territorial commander Robin Dunster and advisory board chair Johnny Aruego, Rosario Villar of Mareco Broadcasting, Bishop George Castro, and other business and media personalities will grace the kick-off ceremonies.

The Christmas Kettle is part of the Red Shield Appeal, a year-long fund drive undertaken by TSA, which has offices at 1414 Leon Guinto Street, Ermita, Manila. Call 524-0086 to 88 or 536-3068.

FOOD EXPO. Dealo Industries Inc. will join the second Philippine Food Expo Jan. 29-Feb. 2,2003 at the SM Megatrade Halls. Dealo is known for its cookies and biscuits.

FAIR. The 10th Taiwan Products and Technology Fair is ongoing until Dec. 1 at the World Trade Center.

Organized by the Taiwan Association Inc., it is sponsored by the Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines. It is managed by Expovision Trade Inc. Call 687-1551/17, 895-5735/2392.

BAZAAR. The 4th Super Bazaar and Food Fair 2002 runs until Dec. 1 at the Social Hall, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park in Makati City.

The bazaar features hourly raffle surprises. Products offered include fashion, cosmetics, food, gift, home and decor items. There are also ethnic zen-holistic merchandise such as health products and meditation tapes, virtue readings and spa services, as well as native fashion accessories from Banaue and artisanal crafts from Angono, among others.

The two-day bazaar is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Proceeds will go to pet charities of organizer Maryjo Feraren. Call 819-0006.

WORKSHOP. Meeting Points International presents a workshop on "Math of Sales Management," Dec. 2-3, at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City.

Math of Sales Management is an enhancement program that will introduce a wide range of mathematical ideas and analytical tools to enhance appreciation of its relationships and applications in the real world. Call 895-5735/2392 or fax 890-7532; e-mail meetingsphilonline.com.ph

SEMINAR. The Millenial Heritage Training Center will conduct a one-day seminar/workshop on floral centerpieces for Christmas, New Year and other occasions, tomorrow, Nov. 30, at the William Valdez Room, Bahay ng Alumni, Magsaysay Ave., UP Diliman, QC. The course, which starts at 10 a.m., will cover various styles—topiary, round and low, long and low, as well as one-sided. Call 373-8549/8616 or 350-3452.

FASHION SHOW. Billabong, the famous Australia brand in surfwear fashion, is now in Manila.

"The New Generation Fashion-Holiday Collection 2002," a surf wear fashion show will be presented by Gentxt at 7 tonight at The Podium, 321 ADB Ave. corner Dona Julia Vargas St., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

The fashion show, to be directed by Joey Espino Jr., will feature the latest surf wear collection for both men and women. After the show, a party will be held at the Elbow Room.

Billabong is available at Stoked, Rockwell; U at Rustan's, Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Nothing but Water stores, and Yokohama Surfing Cafe.

HOME APPLIANCE FAIR. AVsurfer, the country's first AV-IT convergence store, is holding a Home Appliance Fair until Dec. 8 at the basement level of Robinsons Metro East Mall.

Shoppers can enjoy 0 percent interest on selected items and substantial discounts on selected models. Cash buyers will also receive premium items from AVSurfer.

On sale during the fair are audio video equipment from Sony, Aiwa, Samsung and Sharp. AVSurfer will also be offering Beyond Computers. Call 522-5714 or 404-2168.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY. Jag Jeans brightens up the holiday season with fireworks and laser shows at Glorietta 4 Park and Greenbelt 3 Park until Dec. 29.

Feast your eyes on heavenly showers of green, red and yellow in the heart of Makati's prime commercial center, Glorietta 4 Park every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m until Nov. 30, and every Saturday and Sunday at the same time from Dec. 1-29.

The fireworks display will be followed by a 10-minute out-of-this-world laser light shows at Greenbelt 3 Park. The laser light shows take place every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9 p.m., 10 p.m., and 11 p.m. until Nov. 30 and every Saturday and Sunday at the same time from Dec. 1-29.

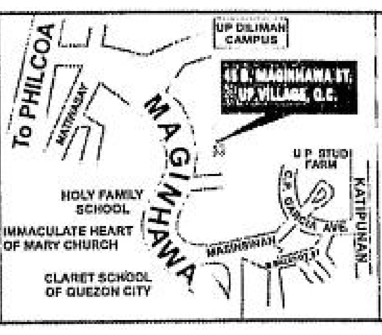
PERFORMANCE. A select group of juniors and seniors from the Philippine Science High School will participate in "Utak Agham: A Product of Art and Science," a fashion and arts presentation in collaboration with fashion designer Patis Tesoro, tomorrow at the PSHS main campus on Agham Road, Diliman, QC.

"Utak Agham" will have a 3 p.m. matinee performance tomorrow exclusively for PSHS students. The fundraiser organized by the Philippine Science High School Foundation, the school's alumni association, will begin at 7 p.m.

DONALD Lim, Ephraim Genuino, Dr. Alendry Caviles, Mayose G. Bautista and Chit Ledonio formally opened the Christmas at 2002 Shop Expo at the World Trade Center.

CHRISTINE Cedeño (center) of Robinsons Land Corporation won a round-trip ticket for two to California, United States, in the grand draw of The Plaza's year-long promo dubbed "Party With The Plaza and Have Fun in California." The raffle was part of the celebration of The Plaza's 35th anniversary. Shown handing over the grand prize to the winner are The Plaza VP and general manager Millie Reyes (left) and The Plaza catering manager Myrna Virtudes.

Vida Doria
FACTORY OUTLET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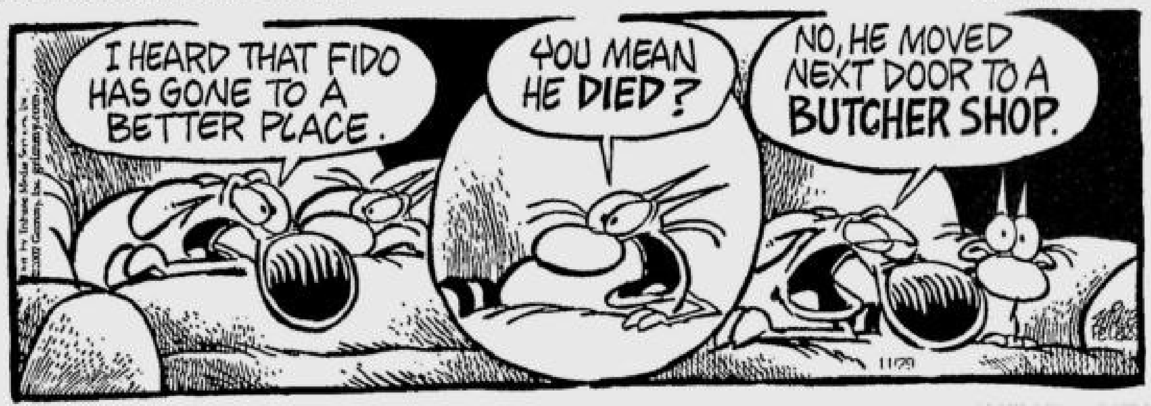
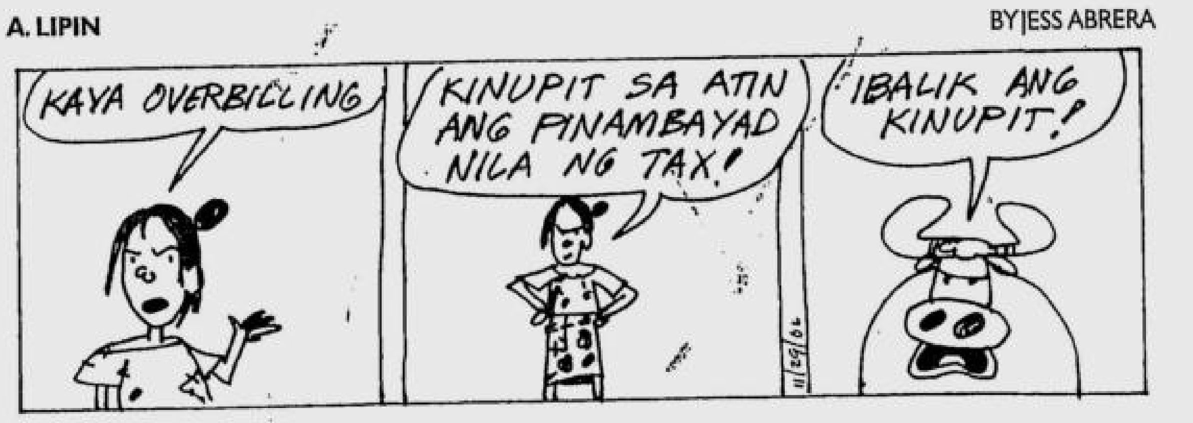
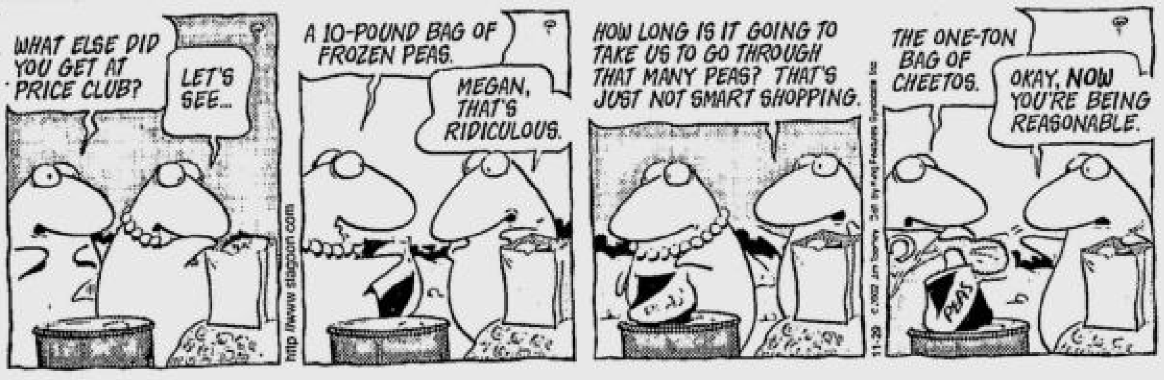
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


I HEARD THAT FIDO HAS GONE TO A BETTER PLACE.
YOU MEAN HE DIED?
NO, HE MOVED NEXT DOOR TO A BUTCHER SHOP.
11/29

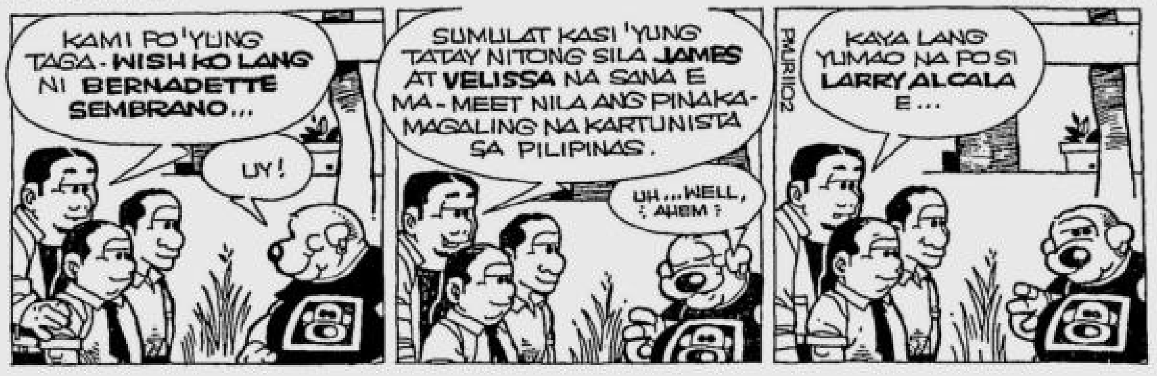
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA OVERBILLING
KINUPIT SA ATIN ANG PINAMBAYAD NILA NG TAX!
IBALIK ANG KINUPIT!

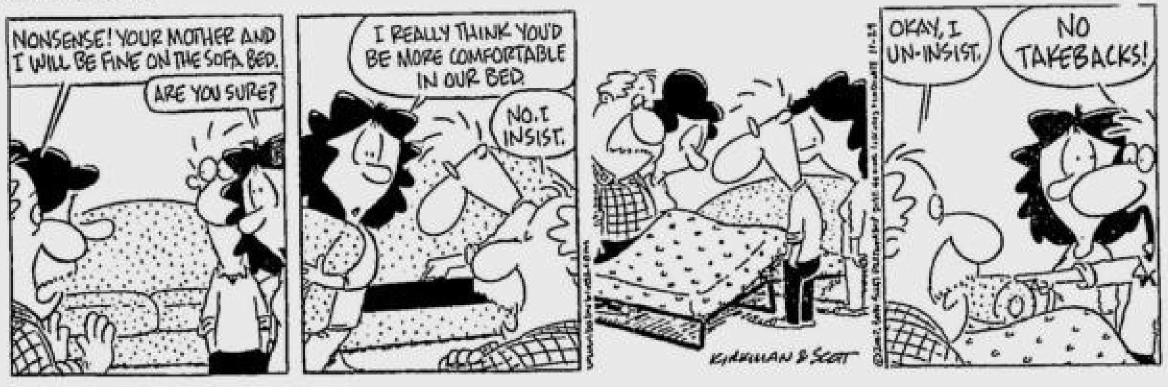
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT ELSE DID YOU GET AT PRICE CLUB?
LET'S SEE...
A 10-POUND BAG OF FROZEN PEAS.
MEGAN, THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE US TO GO THROUGH THAT MANY PEAS? THAT'S JUST NOT SMART SHOPPING.
THE ONE-TON BAG OF CHEETOS.
OKAY, NOW YOU'RE BEING REASONABLE.
PEAS
http://www.slagoon.com

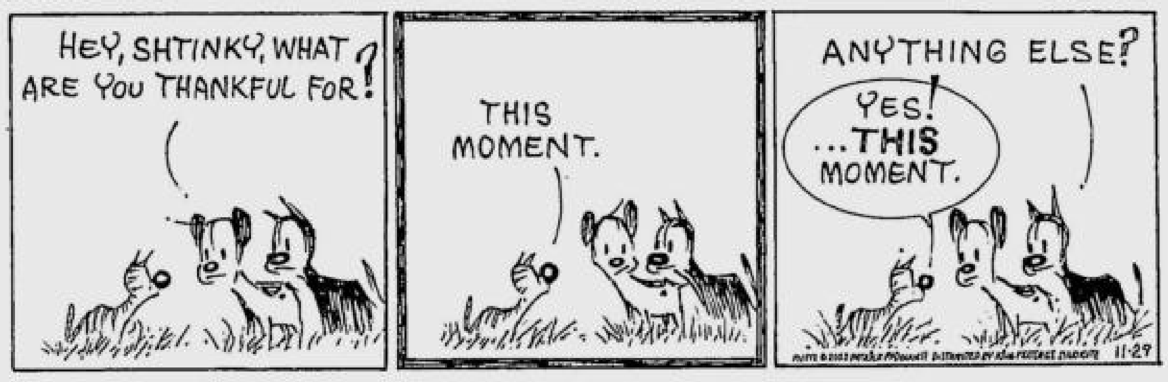
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAMI PO'YUNG TAGA-WISH KO LANG NI BERNADETTE SEMBRANO...
UY!
SUMULAT KASI 'YUNG TATAY NITONG SILA JAMES AT VELISSA NA SANA E MA-MEET NILA ANG PINAKA-MAGALING NA KARTUNISTA SA PILIPINAS.
UH... WELL, AHEM?
KAYA LANG YUMAO NA PO SI LARRY ALCALA E...

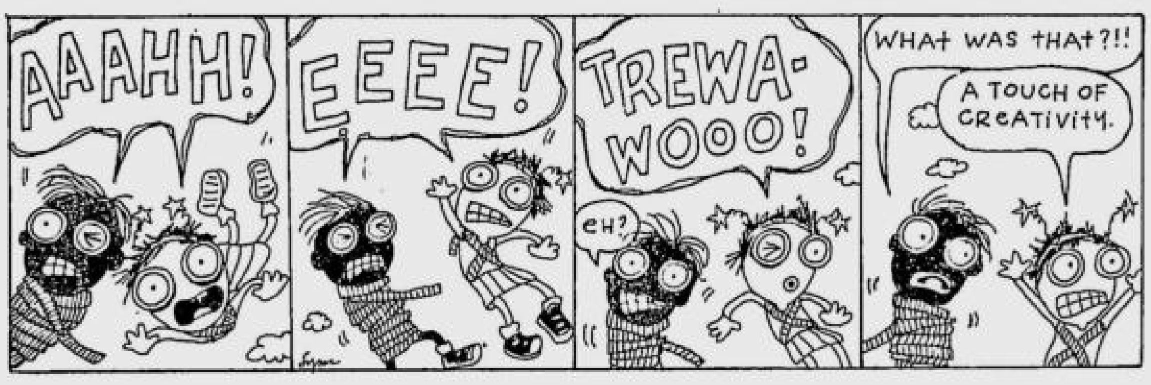
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


NONSENSE! YOUR MOTHER AND I WILL BE FINE ON THE SOFA BED.
ARE YOU SURE?
I REALLY THINK YOU'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE IN OUR BED.
NO. I INSIST.
OKAY, I UN-INSIST.
NO TAKEBACKS!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

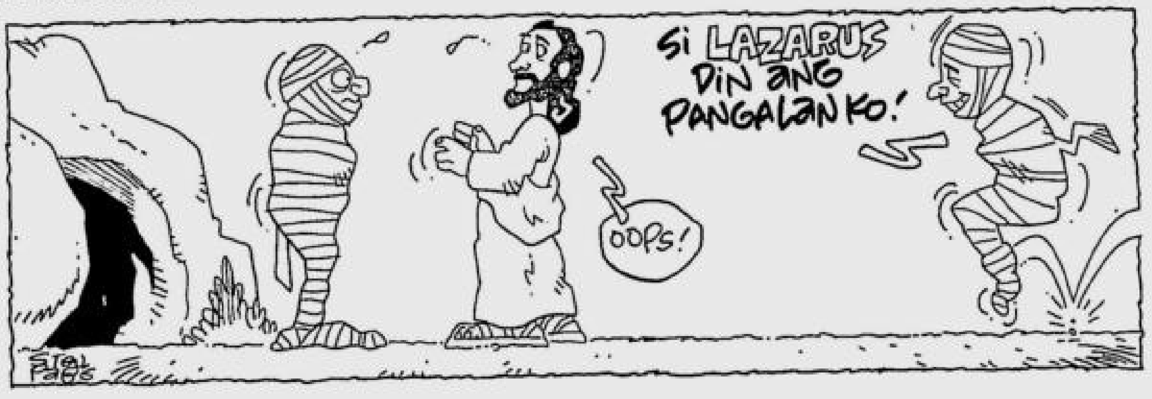
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, SHTINKY, WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?
THIS MOMENT.
ANYTHING ELSE?
YES! ...THIS MOMENT.
11-29

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AAAHH!
EEEE!
TREWA-WOOO!
EH?
WHAT WAS THAT?!!
A TOUCH OF CREATIVITY.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


OOPS!
SI LAZARUS DIN ANG PANGALAN KO!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Diane Ladd, Garry Shandling, Suzy Chaffee, Jon Knight

Happy Birthday: You're ability to weigh the pros and cons of any situation will lead you in the right direction. An honest effort and the desire to actually accomplish something great will be all that's required this year. Be creative in your approach and you will attract the help you need. Your numbers are 5, 18, 24, 32, 39, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your emotions interfere with your job. Idle chatter may be disruptive. Be careful what you say, how you say it and to whom. Protect your reputation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sudden changes regarding dubious investments may cause loss and/or damage to your reputation. Get some advice from those you trust. Romantic opportunities can develop through unusual circumstances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pleasurable activities should be on your agenda. Travel will be conducive to romance and meaningful experiences. You've been working hard and deserve a break, so get out and play.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your ability to help the underdog and your diplomacy while working with others will bring you allies and support in getting ahead professionally. Remember: You get what you give.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Treat your lover to a night of romance and passion. Your relationship will benefit greatly. You can stabilize your future by making commitments you won't regret.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't overreact to emotional ups and downs. Get all the facts before taking action. Make sure you are being impartial. Activities that involve children should be rewarding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can shop for new party clothes or pamper yourself at your local spa. Fitness and personal self-improvement projects will pay off. It's time to stop feeling guilty about having a good time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Home improvement projects will turn out to be a prosperous investment. Be sure to pay enough attention to your family. Short trips will be hectic but worthwhile.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Communication may not be accurate. Make sure you are saying what you mean and that you are hearing what is being said. Check the fine print on any legal document or contract before you sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't pick up the tab to impress others. Tighten your belt and budget. Your change of attitude may be upsetting those close to your heart. Explain how you feel.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is a great time to get out and meet new people. Be cautious, however, where finances are involved. You can make advancements at work. Stay focused.

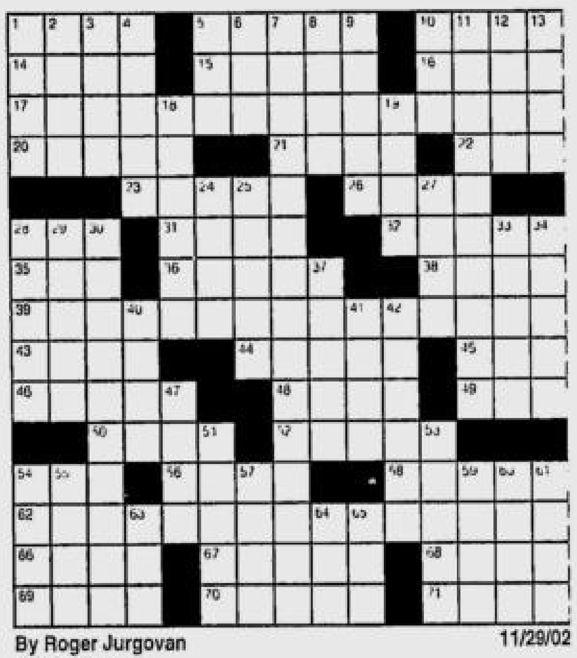
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional life may be suffering if you have been playing both ends against the middle. Social activities will be fun, however, overindulgence has to be kept under control.

Birthday Baby: You will be smart, sensitive and sociable. You will know how to manipulate others in order to get what you want. You will be a crusader and a watchdog for those less able to look out for themselves.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Rivulet
5 Native-born Israeli
10 Wound seriously
14 Thought
15 Normal
16 Pond growth
17 Nostalgic hero?
20 Conical abode
21 Maintain
22 Afore
23 Capital of Morocco
26 Regretful one
28 Wet soil
31 Poi source
32 Cut wood
35 Hail to Caesar
36 Miscue
38 Part to play
39 Out-of-this-world hero?
43 Norwegian king
44 Lug: var.
45 Broke bread
46 Nostrils
48 Ashcroft's predecessor
49 Whippoorwill bill
50 H.S. math course
52 Strangely
54 Intent
56 Kinnear or Louganis
58 Preminger classic
62 Envious hero?
66 Call of the wild goose?
67 Noxious weeds
68 Queen of Carthage
69 Poker stake
70 Advantage
71 Wait a minute

DOWN
1 Estrangement
2 Without work
3 Jump
4 Surgical beam
5 Hero, for short
6 Simile center
7 Hero needing dental attention?
8 Libertine
9 Heroic Horatio
10 Impair the perfection of
11 Municipal legislator
12 Inventor Sikorsky
13 Horse do
18 Gat
19 Musical composition
24 Animal shelter
25 Tapestry in "Hamlet"
27 Husband of a countess
28 Bricklayer
29 Palate appendage
30 Organizational component
33 Make happy
34 Supergiant star in Cygnus
37 Reigned
40 Always
41 Tear
42 Early space program
47 Conventional symbol
51 Actress Garbo
53 Linear measures
54 Turkish honorific
55 Fe
57 Unfledged bird
59 Precisely defined quantity
60 Change the decor
61 Resting on
63 Make do
64 Actress Ruby
65 FDR follower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By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

11/29/02

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	D	S	■	S	C	U	M	■	A	T	H	O	S
A	R	E	A	■	A	L	M	A	■	P	H	A	S	E
W	A	M	P	A	N	O	A	G	■	P	U	R	S	E
S	N	I	P	P	E	T	■	P	I	L	G	R	I	M
■	■	■	Y	E	N	■	A	I	D	E	■	Y	E	S
S	A	T	■	R	E	C	R	E	A	T	E	■	■	■
E	C	H	O	■	S	O	B	■	■	O	R	I	E	L
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	D	A	Y
H	E	N	C	E	■	■	T	A	N	■	S	O	S	O
■	■	■	E	N	T	R	E	N	C	H	■	L	E	N
I	V	E	■	K	I	E	R	■	L	A	S	■	■	■
S	I	X	T	E	E	N	■	D	I	L	A	T	E	S
L	O	P	E	S	■	T	W	E	N	T	Y	O	N	E
A	L	O	N	E	■	E	E	E	E	■	S	L	I	T
M	A	S	S	Y	■	R	E	D	S	■	O	D	D	S

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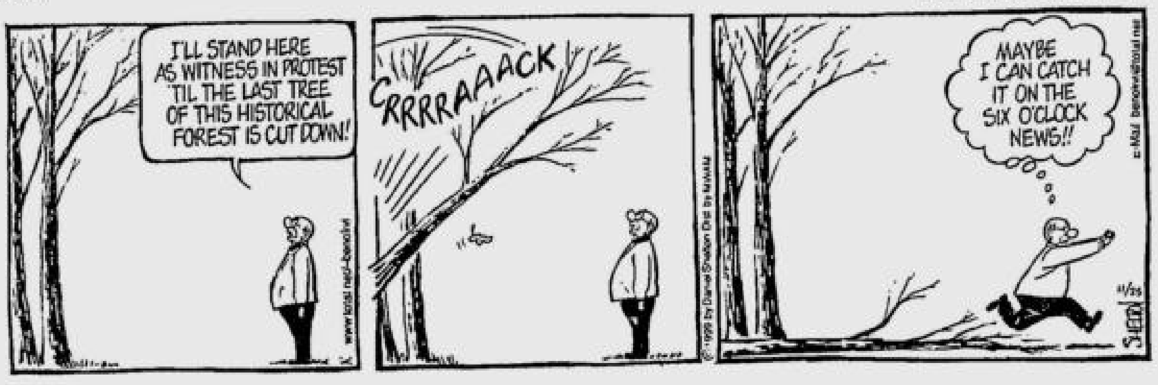
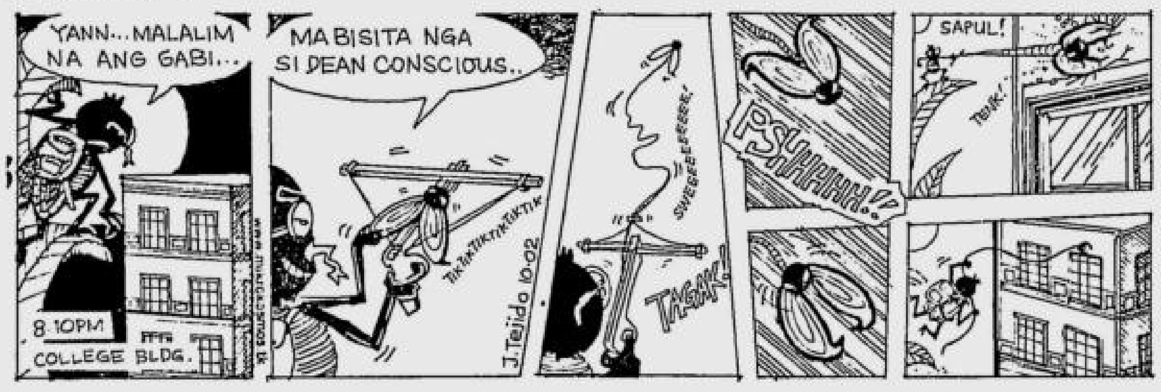
11/28/02

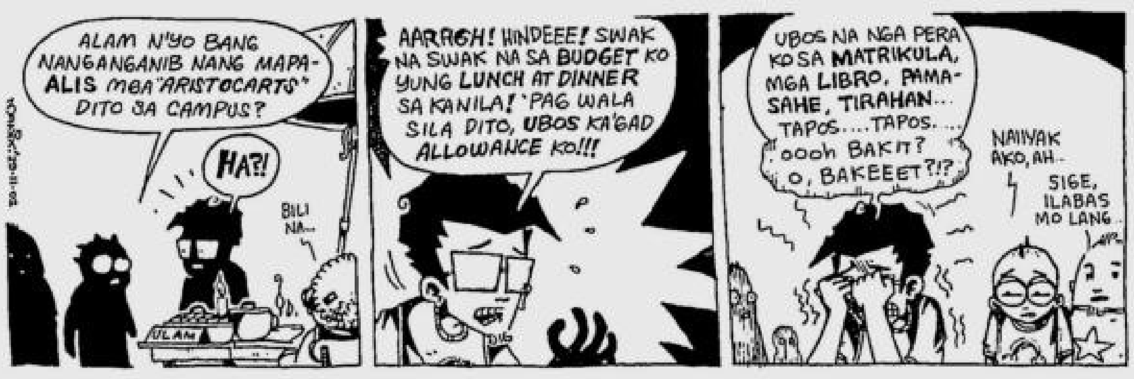
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'LL STAND HERE AS WITNESS IN PROTEST 'TIL THE LAST TREE OF THIS HISTORICAL FOREST IS CUT DOWN!
CRRRRAAACK
MAYBE I CAN CATCH IT ON THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS!!

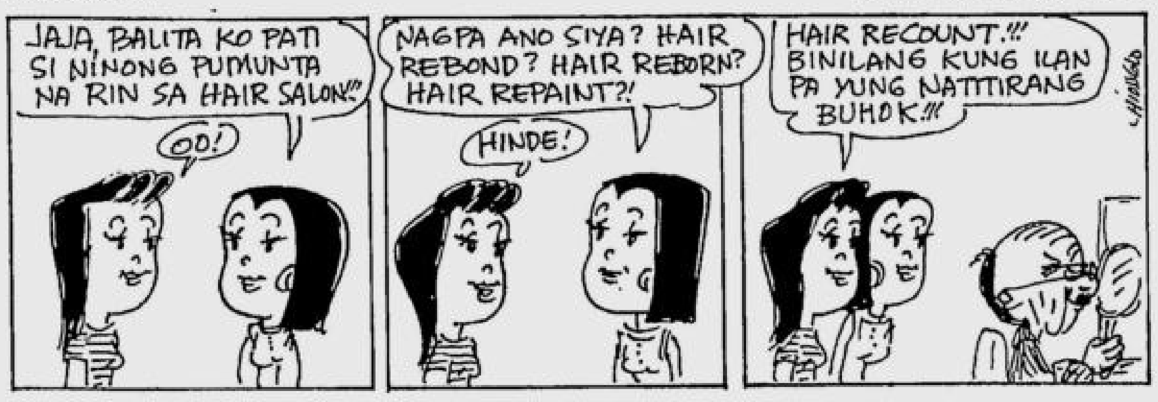
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


YANN... MALALIM NA ANG GABI...
8:10PM
COLLEGE BLDG.
MA BISITA NGA SI DEAN CONSCIOUS...
TIKTIKTIKTIKTIK
J. Tejido 10.02
SWEEEEEEEEE!
TASAK!
PSSHHHH!!
SAPUL!
TSIK!

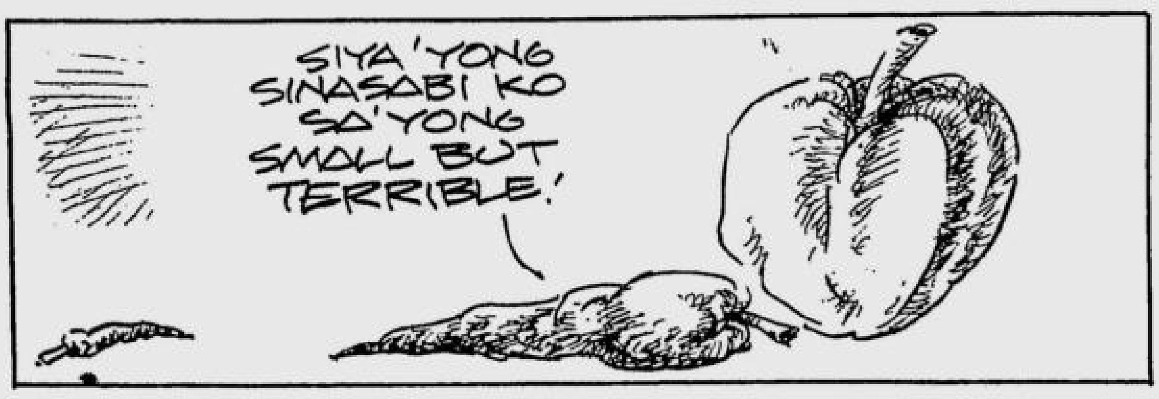
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

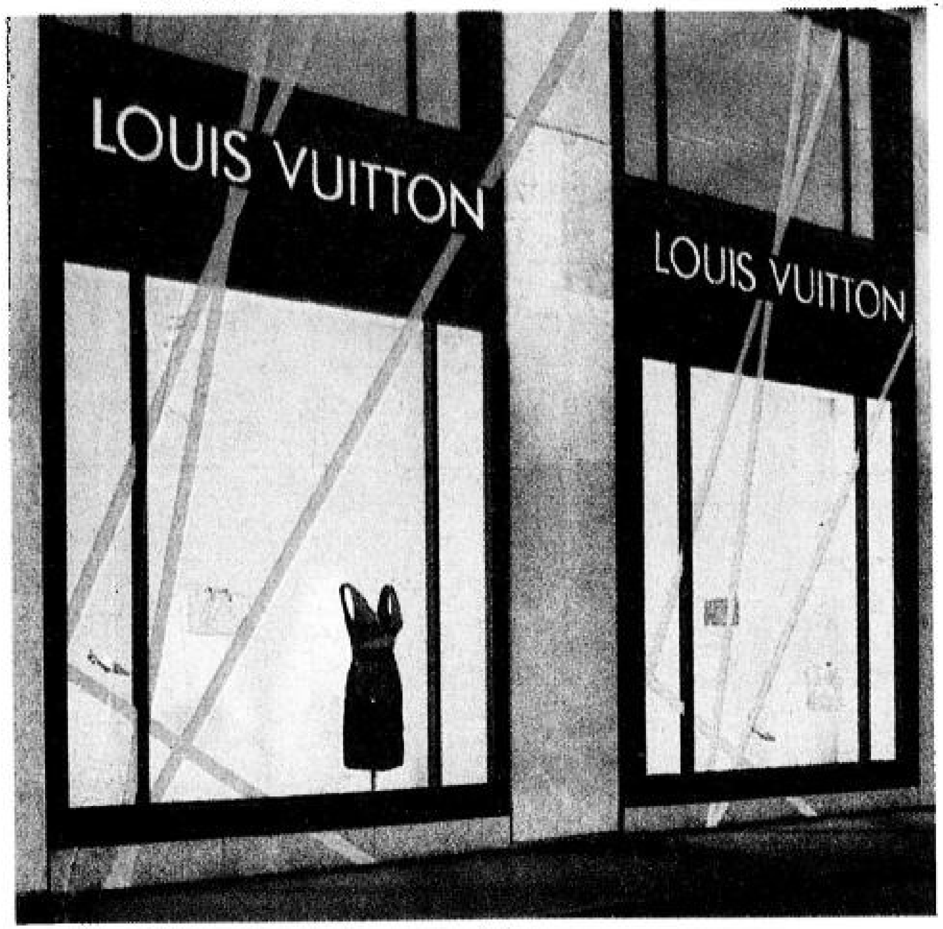

ALAM N'YO BANG NANGANGANIB NANG MAPA-ALIS MGA "ARISTOCARTS" DITO SA CAMPUS?
HA?!
BILI NA...
ULAN
AARRGH! HINDEEE! SWAK NA SWAK NA SA BUDGET KO YUNG LUNCH AT DINNER SA KANILA! 'PAG WALA SILA DITO, UBOS KA'GAD ALLOWANCE KO!!!
UBOS NA NGA PERA KO SA MATRIKULA, MGA LIBRO, PAMASAHE, TIRAHAN... TAPOS.... TAPOS.... oooh BAKIT? O, BAKEEET?!?
NAIIYAK AKO, AH..
SIGE, ILABAS MO LANG..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, BALITA KO PATI SI NINONG PUMUNTA NA RIN SA HAIR SALON!!
OO!
NAGPA ANO SIYA? HAIR REBOND? HAIR REBORN? HAIR REPAINT?!
HINDE!
HAIR RECOUNT.!!! BINILANG KUNG ILAN PA YUNG NATITIRANG BUHOK!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

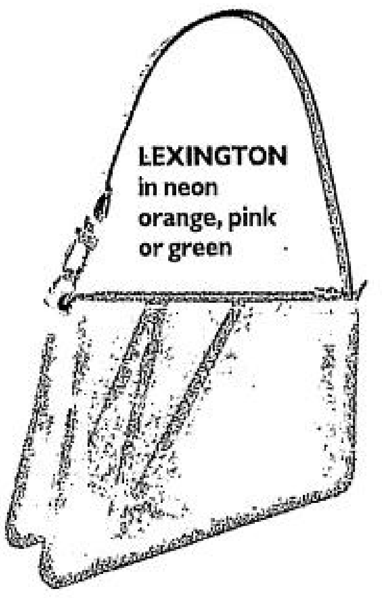

SIYA 'YONG SINASABI KO SA'YONG SMALL BUT TERRIBLE!



VIVID colors light up Louis Vuitton store windows.

> The luxury fashion house has commissioned stage designer Robert Wilson to design its façades and displays and to come out with a new line of bags and accessories

RENOWNED stage designer Robert Wilson gives Louis Vuitton stores a new look for Christmas.



LEXINGTON in neon orange, pink or green

READE MM in neon green, orange or pink

Louis Vuitton goes grand opera

TO MARK the end of 2002 and welcome the new year, Louis Vuitton has drafted stage designer Robert Wilson to upgrade its window display and store façade around the newly redesigned LV logo.

Wilson, a man of the opera, has drawn on his talents as a painter, precision artist and expert of light and color. Departing from traditional Christmas decors, he has made use of joyous, spirited shades of fluorescent orange, pink and green, as well as a number of variations based on these hues.

Using color compositions, the design is based on the idea of constant movement between the back and front of the display.

The magical atmosphere of the window displays is transported to the stores, where the same concept of lines and fluorescent colors cast their light on the house's collections.

LV has also commissioned Wilson to design a signature collection of bags, the Monogram Vernis Fluo. The collection is based on the four best-selling designs of the Monogram Vernis line; all sport the same dazzling, hard edge look as the window displays.

The bags—in pink, green and orange—are jewels of urban modernity, all named after roads in New York. The Houston and Reade mid-sized bags are ideal for shopping; the small Reade model and the Lexington wallet bag are smaller formats for daytime or evening outings.

The Monogram Vernis Fluo collection includes a number of accessories featuring the fluorescent patent monogram look.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is located at the G/F, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Visit the website at www.vuitton.com.

Congratulations

Week 11 winners

Ms. Marie Claire Carlos
Marikina City
Ms. Diana Sayson
Marikina City
Ms. Ma. Jesusa F. Aco

Week 11 winners

Ms. Roxano M. Umali
Pasig City
Ms. Kristina C. Abilar
Mandaluyong City
Ms. Maria Aurora E. Martinez
San Juan

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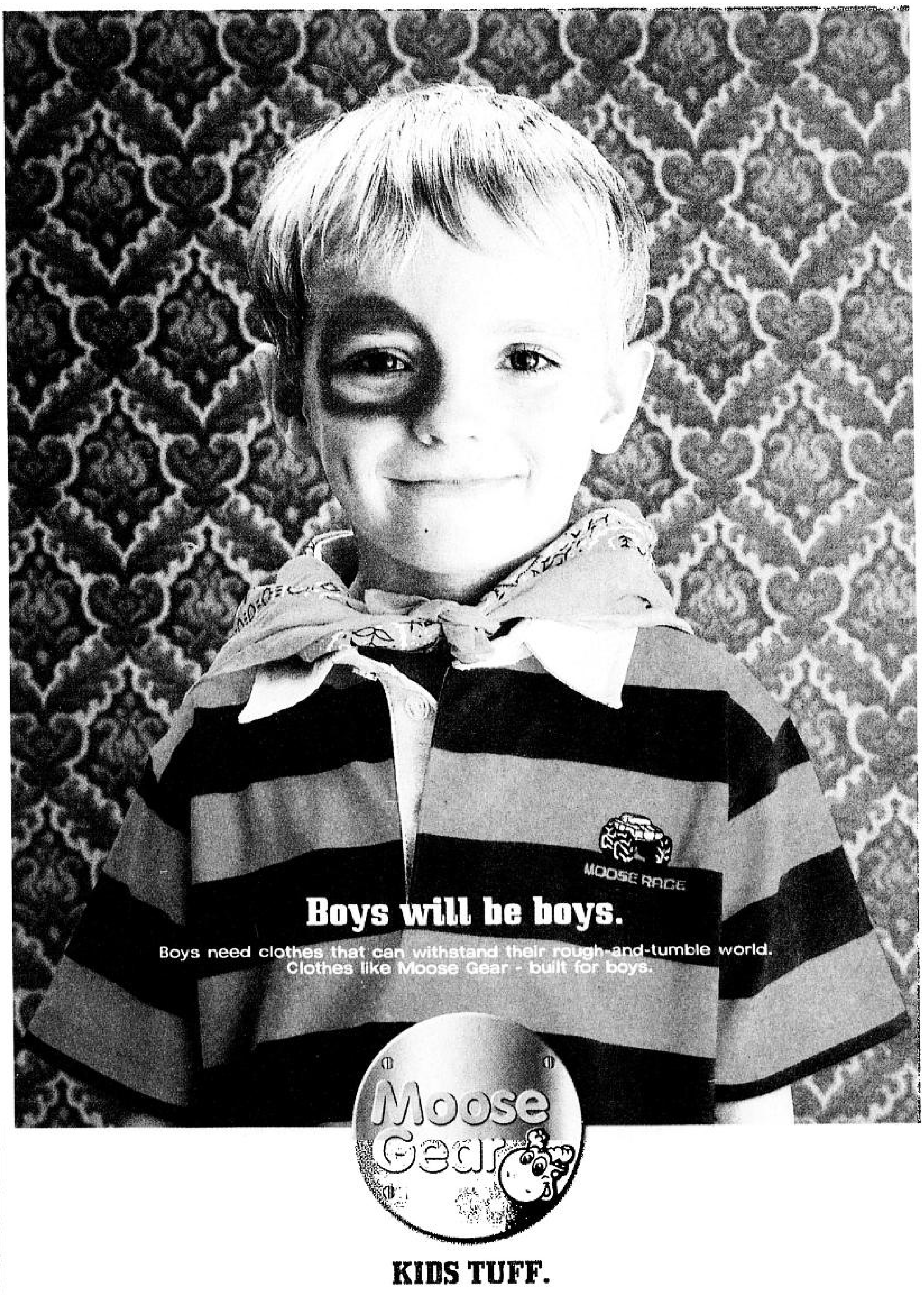
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Moose Gear

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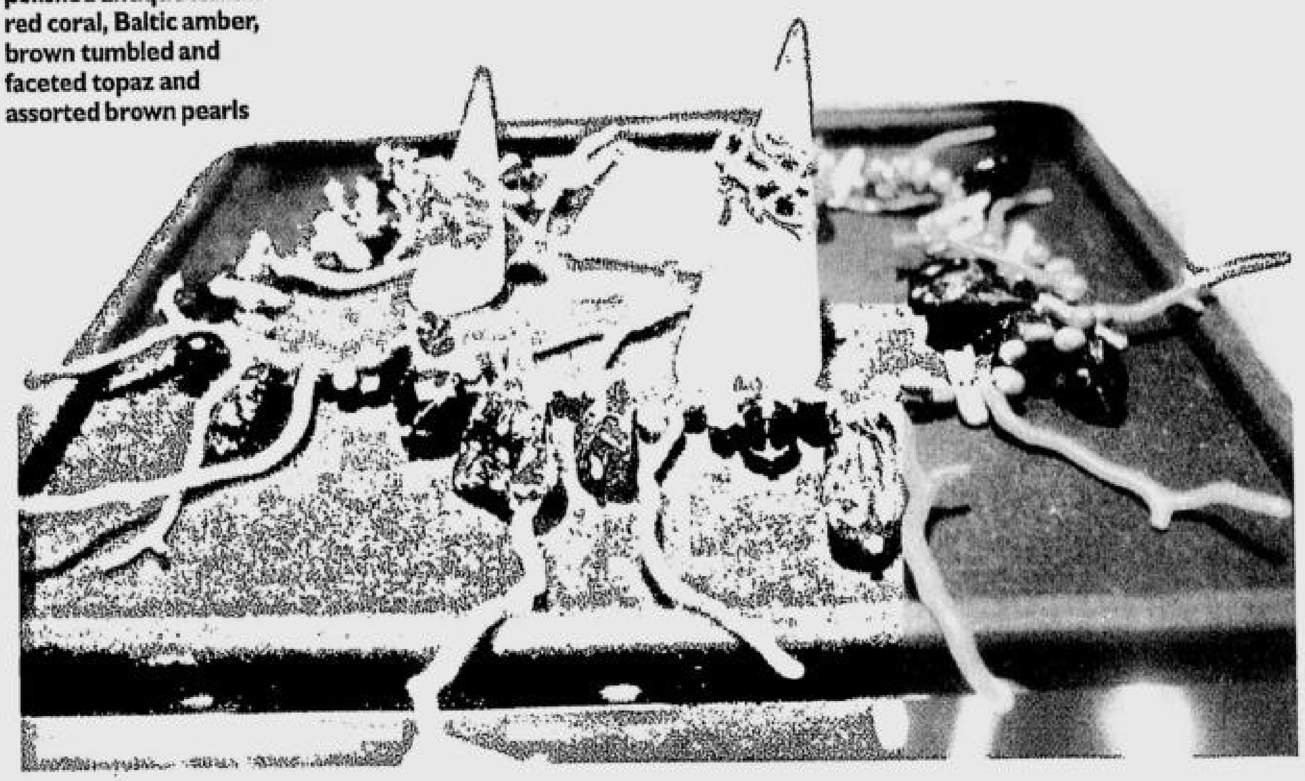
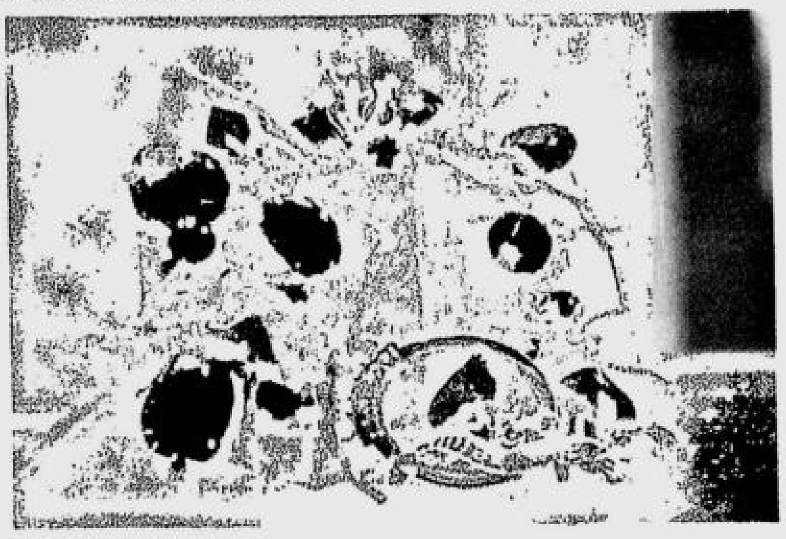


TWENTY-ONE-INCH necklace of rare, polished antique Italian red coral, Baltic amber, brown tumbled and faceted topaz and assorted brown pearls



TWO-STRAND bracelet of red Italian coral, black obsidian, onyx and aventurine with sculptured gold branches and the signature Naga clasp

In the grip of the *dragon*

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

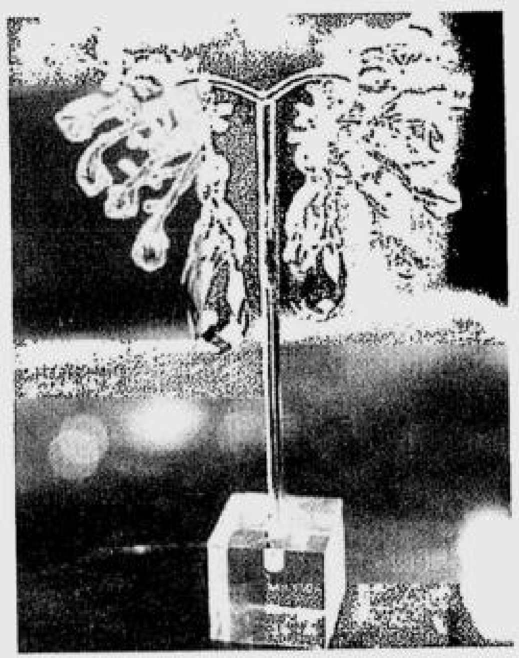
FIRMA'S Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre have heralded the coming holidays at their newest store in Greenbelt 3 in Makati by opening their doors to the "dragon."

Having built a reputation for selling one-of-a-kind furniture, jewelry and art pieces since it first opened in Malate several seasons ago, Firma, this time, is featuring several pieces of Tibetan antiques.

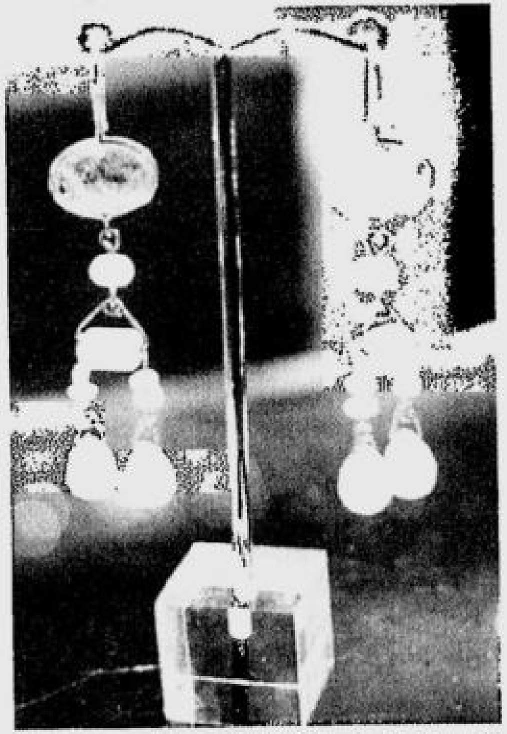
Sharing the limelight are chunky but stunning jewelry pieces by Burma-born designer Wynn Wynn Ong under her Naga line. Naga, incidentally, is "dragon" in Burmese. Since Tibet, where most of the antiques have been sourced, is also part of China, Toledo and Vijandre decided to call their latest marketing salvo "Enter the Dragon."

The launch drew Firma's loyal patrons composed mostly of socialites and lovers of fine furniture and jewelry. Ong's one-of-a-kind baubles, which she herself painstakingly designs by hand, were first sold at Firma's Malate branch a year ago. Most of her loyal patrons, who previously bought jewelry from her, showed up at the event proudly wearing their pieces made of such materials as semi-precious stones, antique corals, wood and

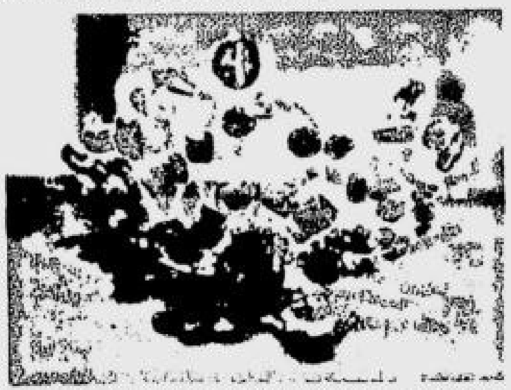
IN THE GRIP/ E2



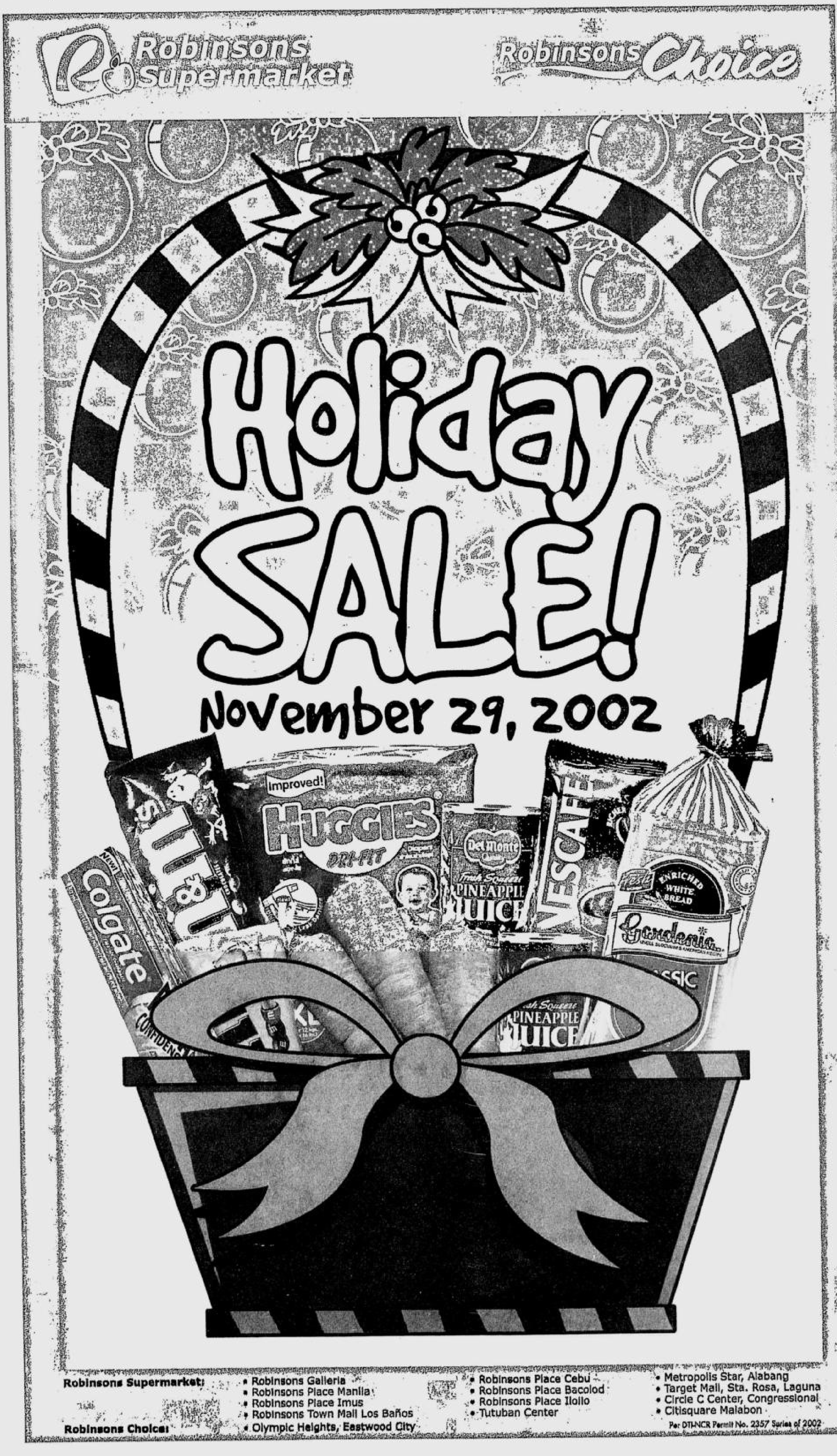
SCULPTURAL earrings of faceted olive tourmaline and large smoky quartz teardrops



ANTIQUE-STYLE drop earrings of 14-k gold with Brazilian cabochon aquamarine, pearls and faceted light aquamarines



DECONSTRUCTED tiara with large dark Sri Lankan garnets, Austrian crystals, dark tourmalines and purple sandstone



Robinsons Supermarket:
- Robinsons Galleria
- Robinsons Place Manila
- Robinsons Place Imus
- Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños
- Robinsons Place Cebu
- Robinsons Place Bacolod
- Robinsons Place Iloilo
- Tutuban Center
- Metropolis Star, Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Citisquare Malabon

Robinsons Choice:
- Olympic Heights, Eastwood City

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2357 Series of 2002

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Home LIFESTYLE

Bit of Malay jungle is among best tropical gardens

RARE orchid cultivar at Tan Hoon Siang Mist House

The Singapore Botanic Gardens is known for its combination of untouched primary forest and specialty gardens

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Joan Bondoc

THE SINGAPORE Botanic Gardens offers a quiet escape from the clamor of the business district and shopping areas. Located at 1 Cluny Road, Singapore, it ranks among the world's finest tropical gardens.

Literally carved from the Malay jungle by Singapore's British founders in 1822, it is now known for its combination of untouched primary forest and specialty gardens. "Today, four acres of the original jungle land have been preserved in their original state," said Louis Loo, tourism liaison officer, marketing communications division of the Singapore Tourism Board.

During its early years, Loo added, the Singapore Botanic Gardens served primarily as an ex

BIT/ F2

Real People. True Stories.

"I used to scuba dive a lot and that made my skin drier and full of freckles. Then Imedeen came along. Now, my skin feels softer with hardly any blemishes!"

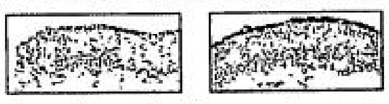
Ereka Therese Gutierrez,
30, Full-time housewife and mom

She may no longer be scuba-diving, but Therese -- a dedicated housewife and mother of three -- remains an active, well-rounded woman. Moreover, despite having to keep a happy home while dabbling in interior design and doing make-overs for special events, she's able to maintain a youthful look.

That's because her skincare includes Imedeen.

Imedeen is a skin care tablet that helps your skin bind essential moisture by nourishing its inner layers. "With Imedeen, the effects of being out in the sun and sea were greatly minimized. My skin's moisture balance improved, making it less dry. Even my freckles are hardly visible now!"

And Therese's husband has noticed, constantly complimenting his wife about her refreshing glow. Reveals Therese, "He says I'm even more attractive now and I think it's because I discovered Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.



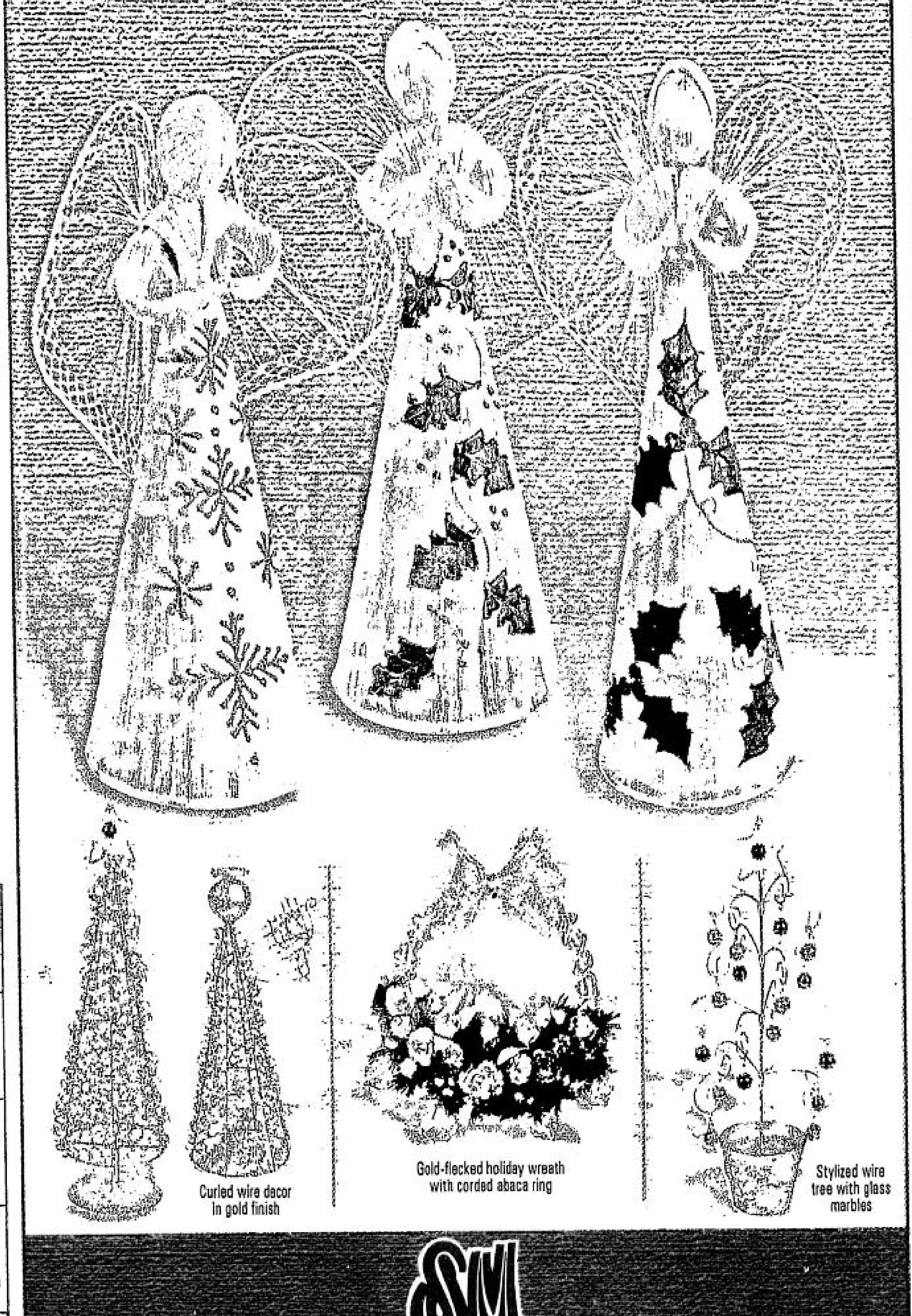
Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

Clinically Proven
IMEDEEN
The Skin Care Tablet
Find out more! Call [illegible] at 703-1132,
[illegible] IMINFO at 0917 [illegible]
For more stories of real women: [illegible]

At the Philippine Crafts Department

Christmas Traditions

[illegible]


Curled wire decor in gold finish
Gold-flecked holiday wreath with corded abaca ring
Stylized wire tree with glass marbles

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with kc montero
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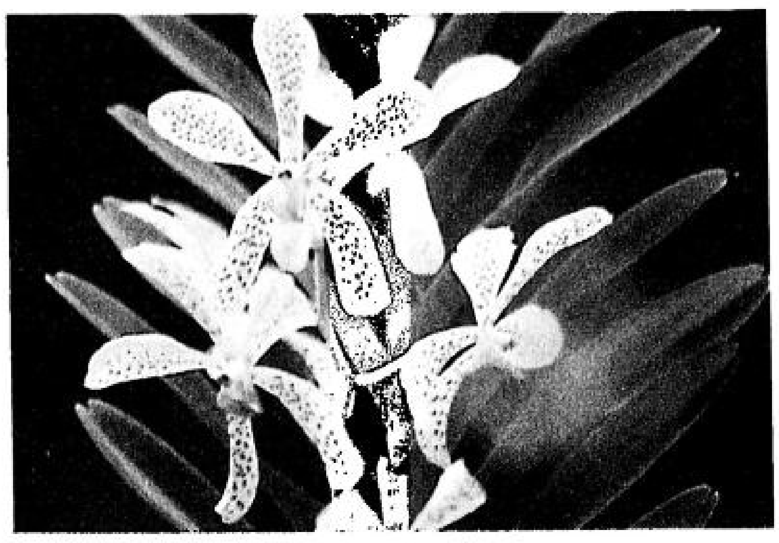
FREESTYLE
Dec. 1 • 4pm

SINGAPORE'S national flower Vanda Miss Joaquim

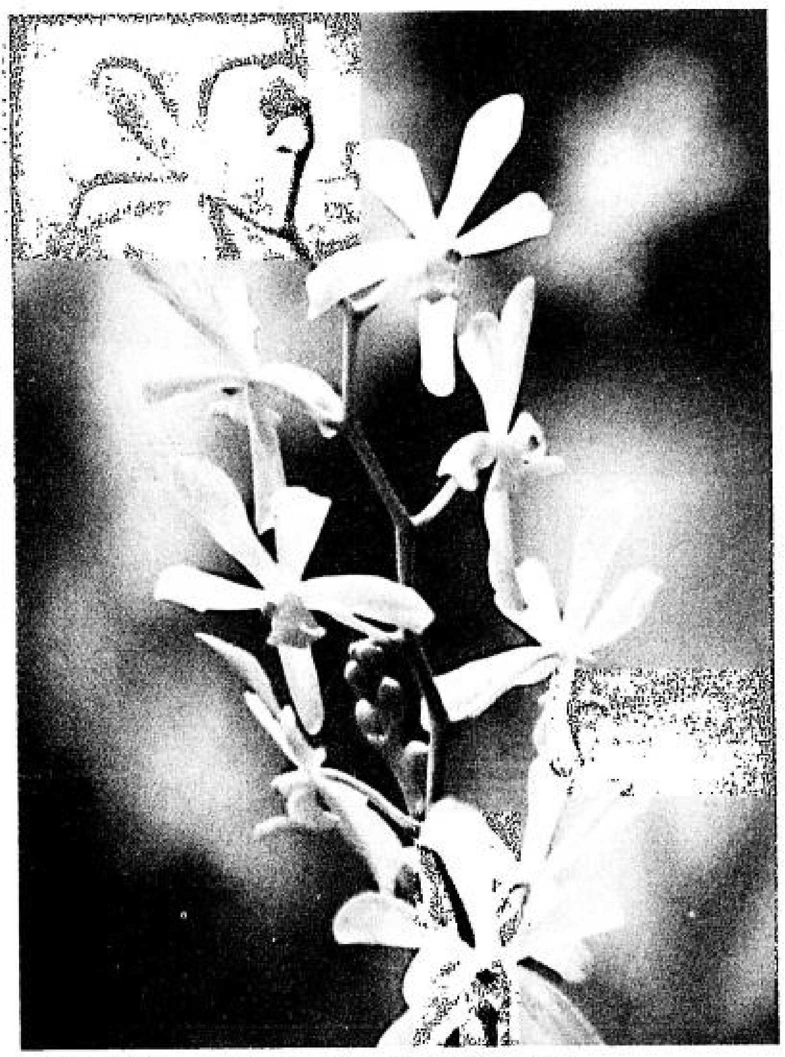
RARE orchid cultivar at Tan Hoon Siang Mist House



RARE orchid cultivar at Tan Hoon Siang Mist House

Bit of Malay jungle is among best tropical gardens

From page F1



RARE orchid cultivar at Tan Hoon Siang Mist House

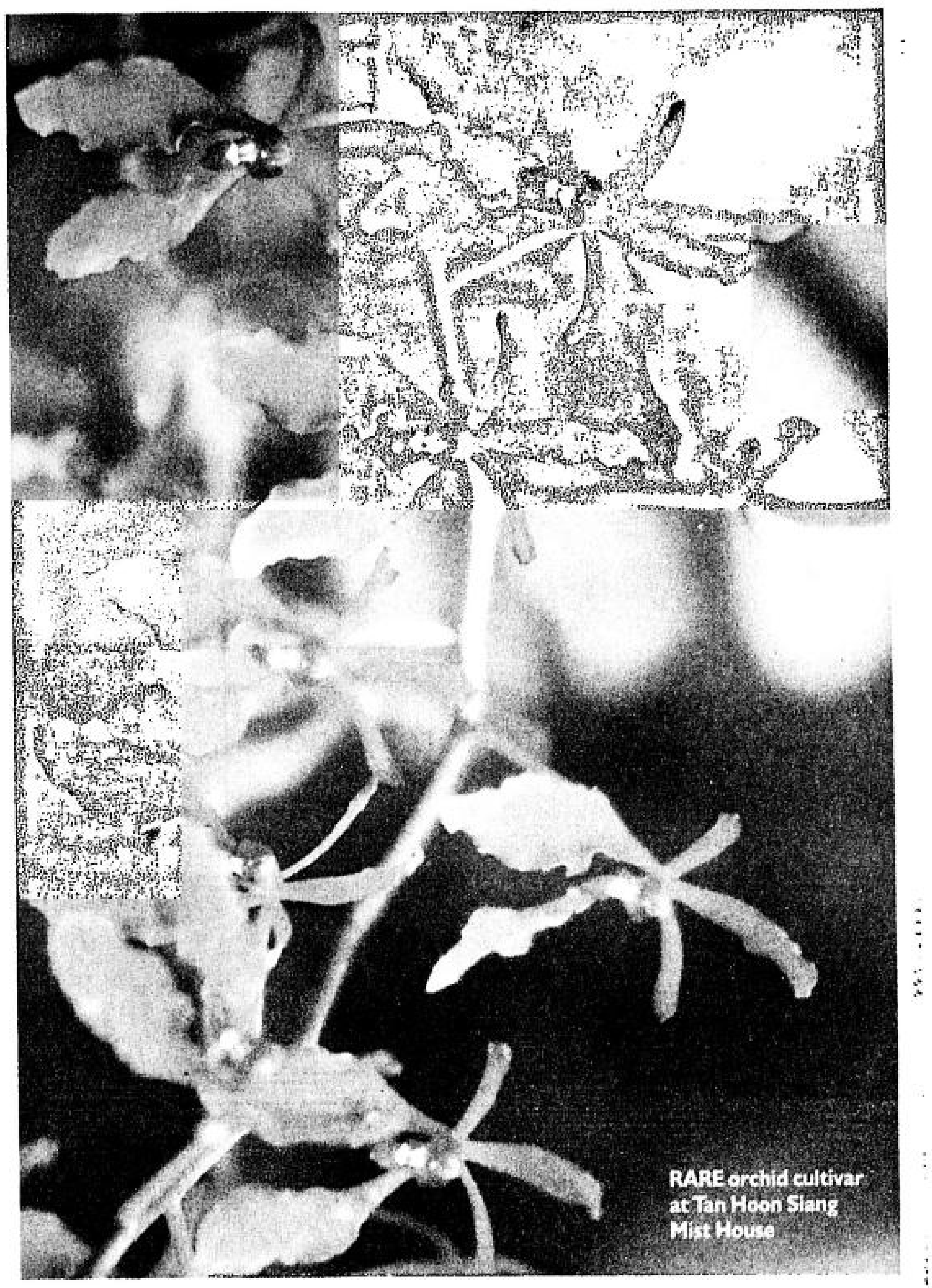
imental station for both native and imported plants with potential commercial value.

Henry N. Ridley, who became superintendent in 1888, made the gardens a research center on *Heve brasiliensis*, the Brazilian rubber tree. Through the research, Ridley developed an improved method of tapping rubber trees that resulted in a better yield of latex. The technology revolutionized the region's economy since Brazil, up to that point, monopolized the world's rubber production.

The Singapore Botanic Gardens has, among others, the frangipanis, roses, ferns and desert plants seen in the tropical island's lush parks. The 80-acre gardens are close to the city's center and have about 3,000 species of tropical and subtropical plants set among lovely lakes. The herbarium contains about 500,000 preserved specimens, while the National Orchid Garden has an amazing 60,000 species in a sprawling display that also feature manmade water attractions and an exotic bromeliad collection from Central and South America.

A network of landscaped parks has topiary combining Western and Eastern traditions. Water and flowers are combined for the classic English design. Also part of the complex are an English rose garden with bronze statues of playful young girls by Sydney Hartley, the dry Rockery Garden and Sundial Garden featuring desert plants, and the Swiss fountain consisting of an enormous spinning stone sphere.

"The Singapore Botanic Gardens has been developed along a three-core concept. Tanglin is the heritage core retaining the old favorites and charms of the historic gardens; Central is the tourist belt; and Bukit Timah is the educational and recreational zone. Each core offers an exciting array of attractions," Loo said.



RARE orchid cultivar at Tan Hoon Siang Mist House

AN ORCHID named after Crown Prince Akihito of Japan

Orchidarium

Most of the wild orchids displayed at the National Orchid Garden can be found in the Orchidarium. Wild orchids often have delicate and intricate blooms than the cultivated ones.

Burkill Hall

Built in 1866, the colonial bungalow is an example of tropical architecture. Once the home of the Gardens' directors, the hall is now the venue for events and functions.

Orchid Terraces and Water Features

Three hectares of orchid terraces are enlivened by tropical foliage and water features such as the Crane Fountain and Tiger Orchid Fountain.

Symphony Lake

Completed in 1976, the lake not only abounds in ornamental fishes but also water plants such as water lilies. It has the Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, a leading outdoor venue for musical performances in Singapore. Aside from being an important landscape feature, the Symphony Lake is also the source of water for the National Orchid Garden.

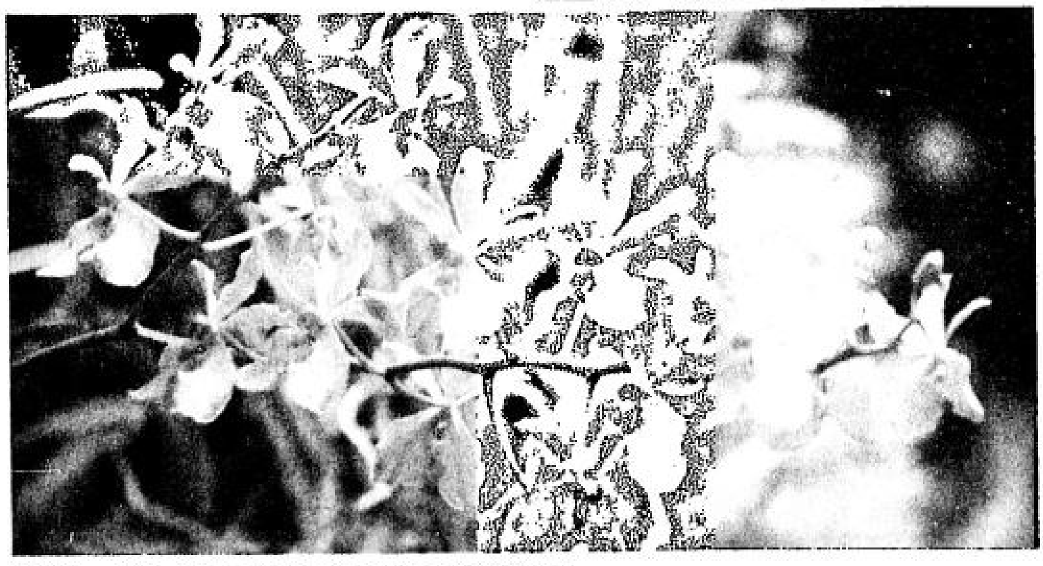
National Orchid Garden

Located on the highest hill in the Singapore Botanic Gardens, its carefully landscaped slopes hold 60,000 orchids representing 400 species and more than 2,000 hybrids.

Its most distinctive feature is its design, which displays the plants in four separate color zones. The Spring Zone has mainly bright, lively shades of gold, yellow, and creams; the

BIT/ F3

RARE orchid cultivar at Tan Hoon Siang Mist House



RARE orchid cultivar at Tan Hoon Siang Mist House

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT 82-0421 SERIES OF 2002

Bit of Malay jungle . . .

From page F2

Summer Zone has strong reds and pinks; the Autumn Zone has mature shades; and the Winter Zone whites and cool blues. The zoning by color is achieved through a meticulous blending of selected trees, shrubs, herbs and orchids (mostly hybrids) with matching foliage and floral colors.

Other outstanding attractions in the National Orchid Garden are the VIP Orchid Garden, which features a select group of orchid hybrids named after state visitors and VIPs from within and outside Singapore; the Tan Hoon Siang Misthouse, which showcases rare orchid cultivars against a backdrop of cultural décor and tropical foliage; and the Yuen-Peng Mcneice Bromeliad collection with over 20,000 plants representing over 800 types from the pineapple family; and the soon-to-open Orchid Cool House, which will have a tropical forest with trees and rocks draped in orchids and carnivorous plants. The cool house will also feature plants from cooler tropical highlands.

The orchid garden has a breeding program that started in 1928.

"The very design of these orchids is, one could say, 'handcrafted' by the garden's horticultural staff, dedicated to bringing out the finest in any hybrid cross," Loo said.

The "Celebration Singapore" media tour was sponsored by the Singapore Tourism Board.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

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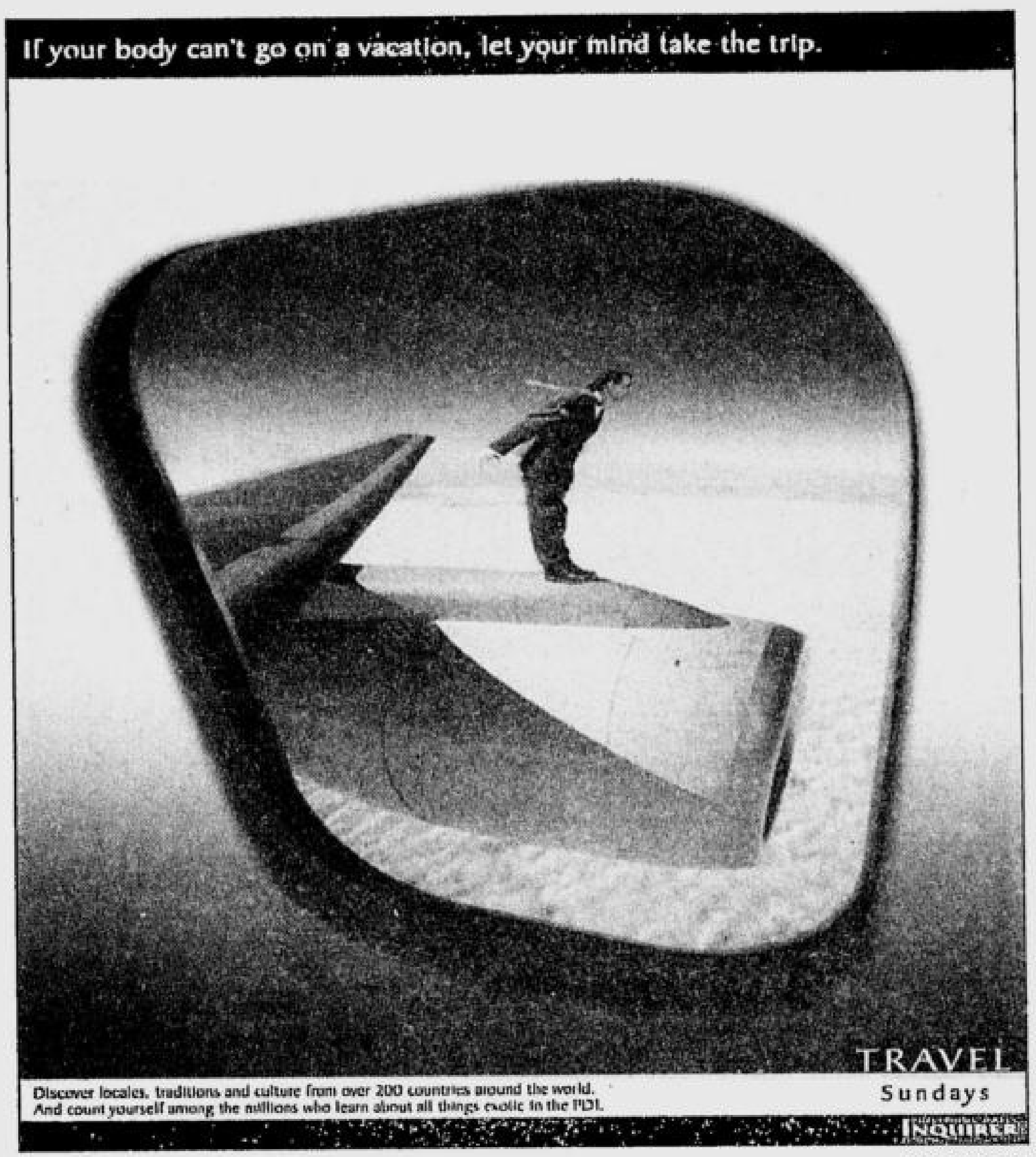

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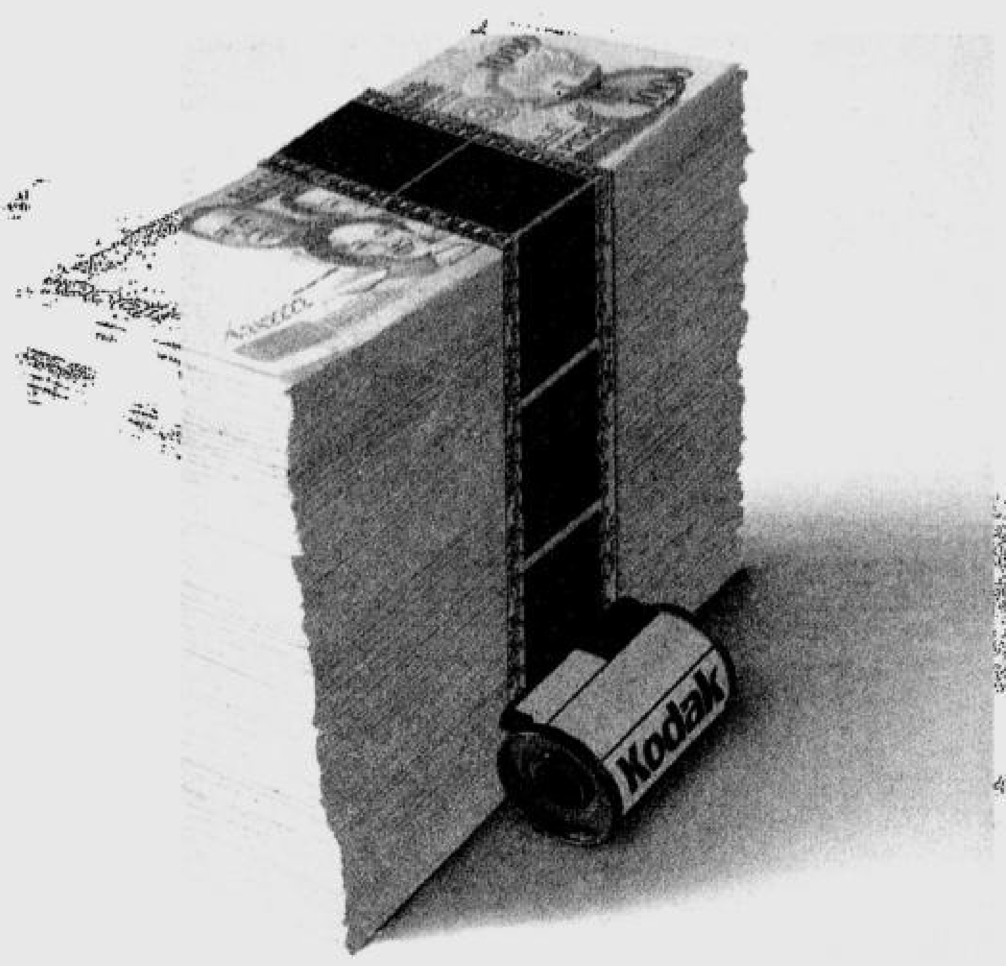

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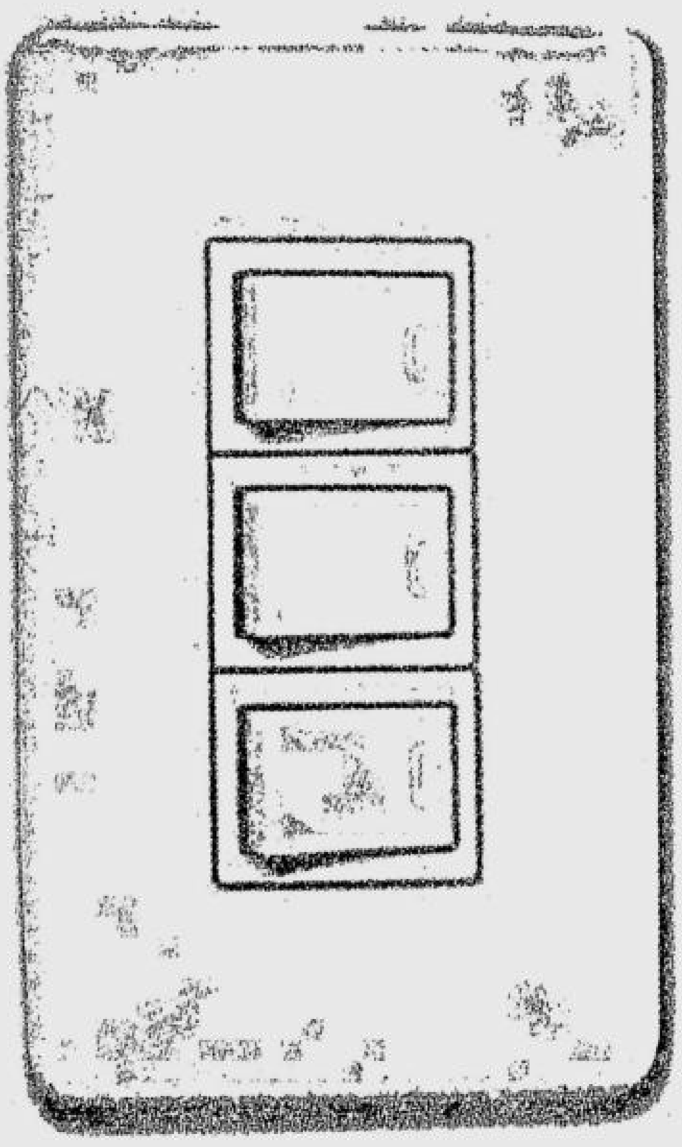

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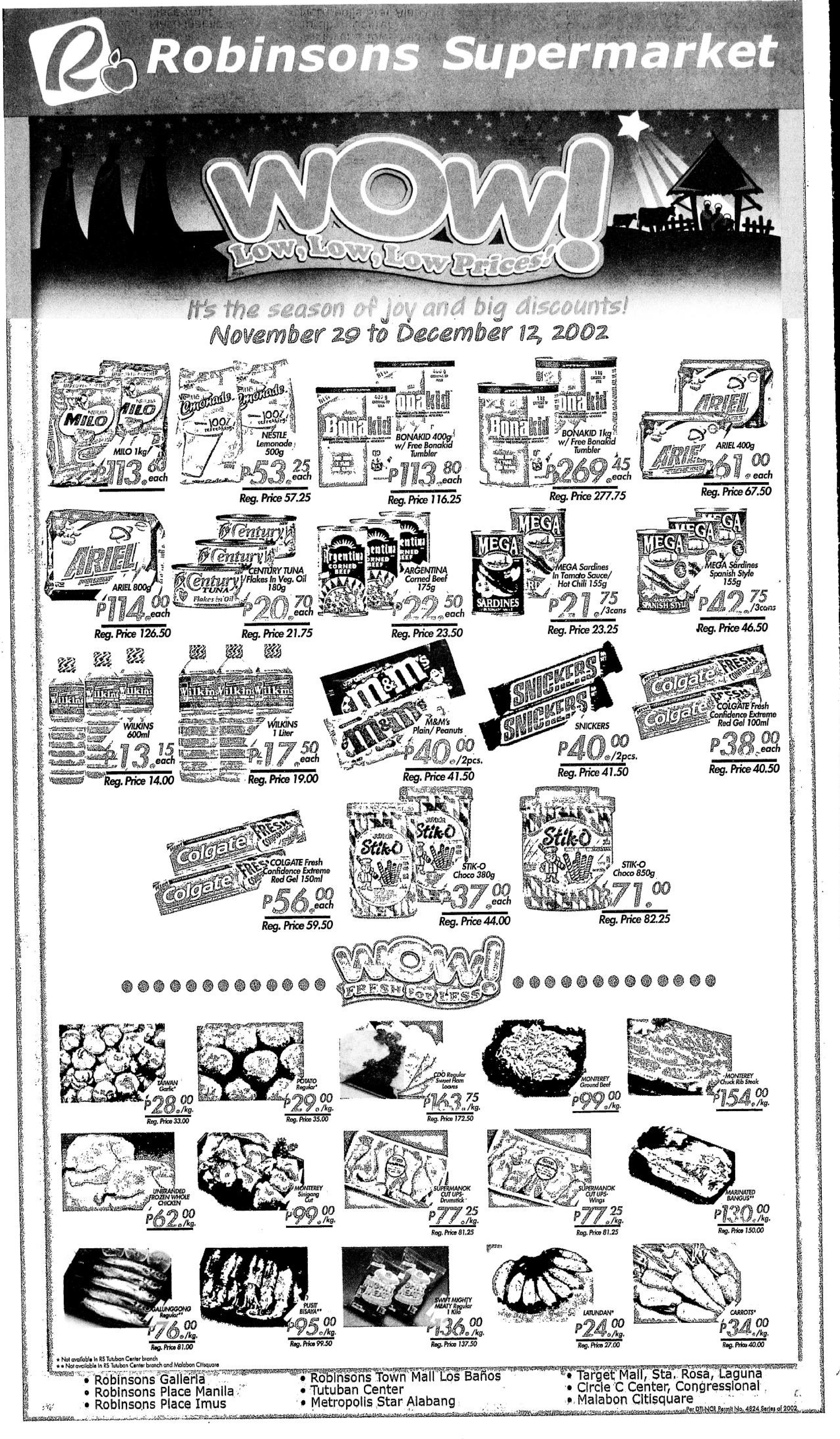

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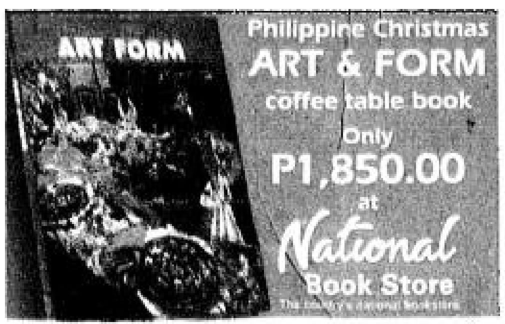
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4824 Series of 2002



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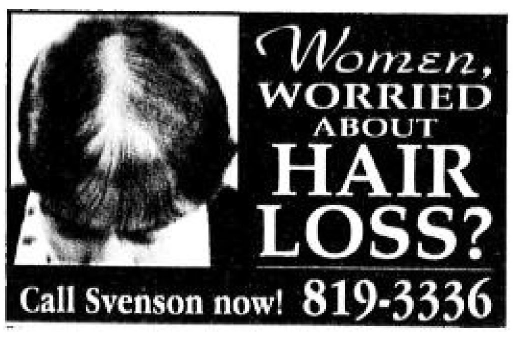
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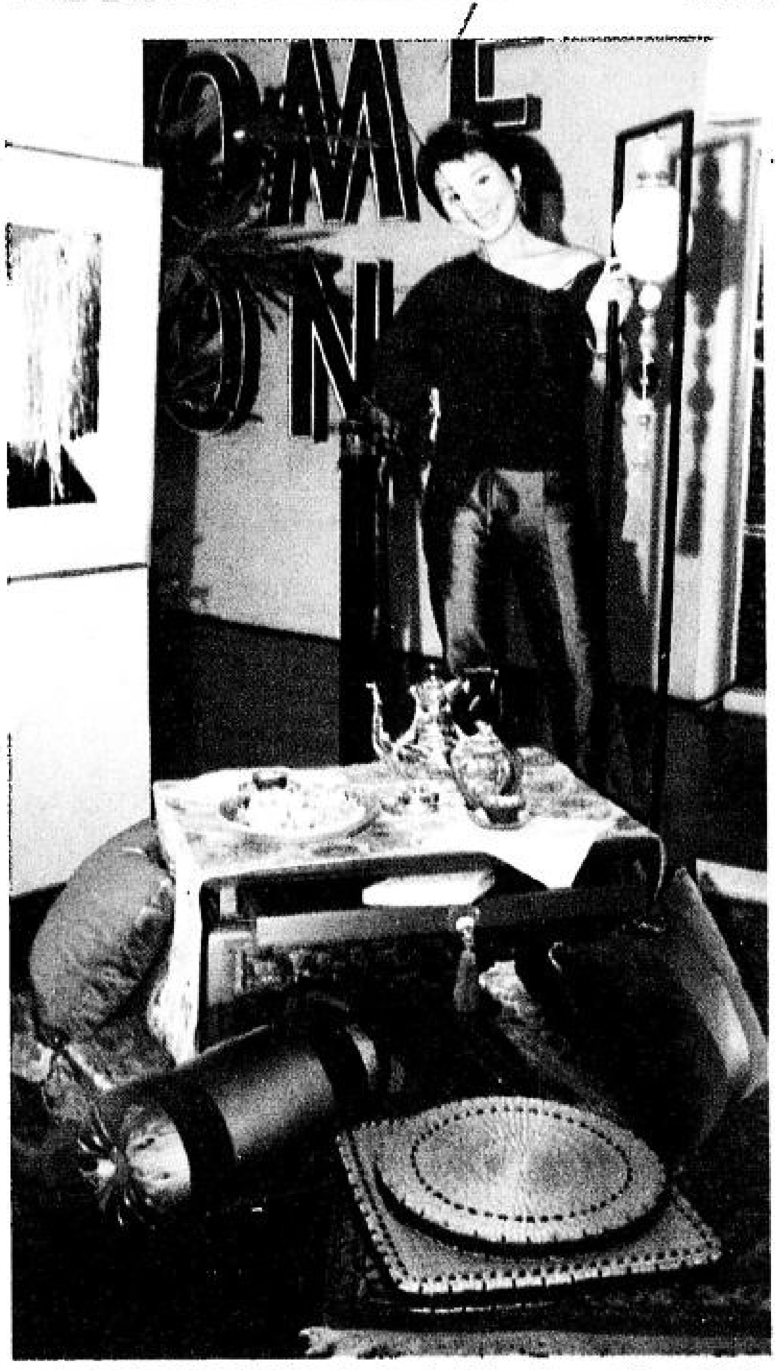
Tables of joy and thanksgiving

Unique Christmas table settings raise the bar of elegance, festivity and taste



RESERVATIONS FOR TWO. Ces Oreña-Drilon shows off her table for two. All items from Firma.

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

PROMINENT society figures are showing off their holiday table settings at the Home Zone Lobby on the third level of Glorietta 4. Home Zone is an eclectic mix of home stores offering affordable, stylish and unique merchandise. Items included in the holiday setting exhibit were chosen from the 14 stores that make up the Home Zone section.

Among the stores that make up Home Zone are Home and Beyond, which offers American country style products; Dimensione, which has Scandinavian furniture; Urban Effects; Robles Heritage, which has European lamps and specializes in stained glass; Regalong Pambahay; Victoria; PNKY; Asian Finds; Earth Colors, which is noted for earthenware and terracotta vases; Shell Canvas; Custom Clay Shop; Cereo Candle Exchange; Restoration, which is noted for its American contemporary furniture and home decor; and Unica, renowned for its Filipino flatware and kitchen accessories.

Lizzie Zobel de Ayala's setting is a mix of different cultural influences to reflect what she believes we are today—as "part of a global village." The items on her setting have been mostly picked from Firma—a chakam cabinet dating from 19th century Tibet, a small filigree lamp and a *banig* sofa from Soumak.

"To celebrate Christmas surrounded by the warmth of family and friends is to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas," says Zobel. A casual relaxed buffet at home where everybody is welcome, and free to roam and visit each other truly celebrates Christmas for me!", Zobel de Ayala says.

Broadcast journalist Ces Oreña-Drilon's setting is a place to relax and pause from the frenzy of the holidays.

"The Yuletide season is often marked by overindulgence and stress, and oftentimes, the merriment gets in the way of the true meaning of the season," Drilon says. "In the midst of the merriment is also the desire to pause and reflect. The intimate setting of tea for two is the 'slowing down' after hours of eating and drinking and sometimes chaotic opening of presents."

Firma has assisted Ces in planning the simple, Eastern arrangement which she describes as " a haven for a couple to bond after an all-night celebration."

Philippine Tatler editor Anton San Diego's setting is celebratory. Its most interesting features are six uniquely shaped chairs from Kish and three huge clear glass vases filled with red roses.

"Despite the current situation and the uncertainties we face, I believe that it's important to keep up with family tradition, festivities, optimism, and more importantly, what the holiday represents—hope," San Diego says. The dominant color scheme for his table are the traditional colors of Christmas, red and green, with touches of silver and gold.

Quiet

Mons Romulo Tantoco's table setting is reflective of her quiet personality.

"The best table settings for me are those that have personal touches of the hosts, which tells me that he or she took time out to make it

TABLES/ G6

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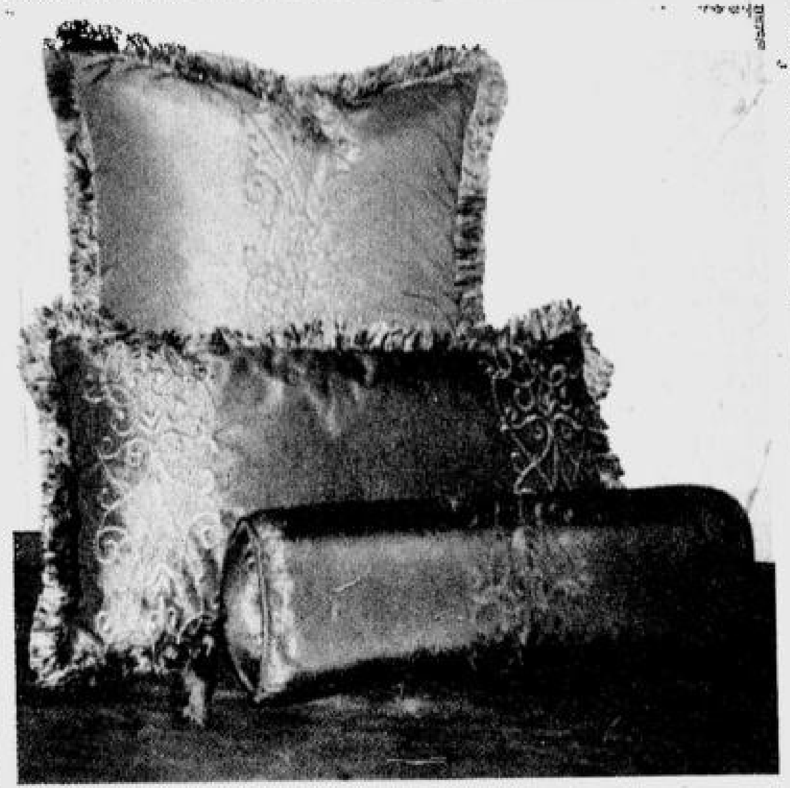
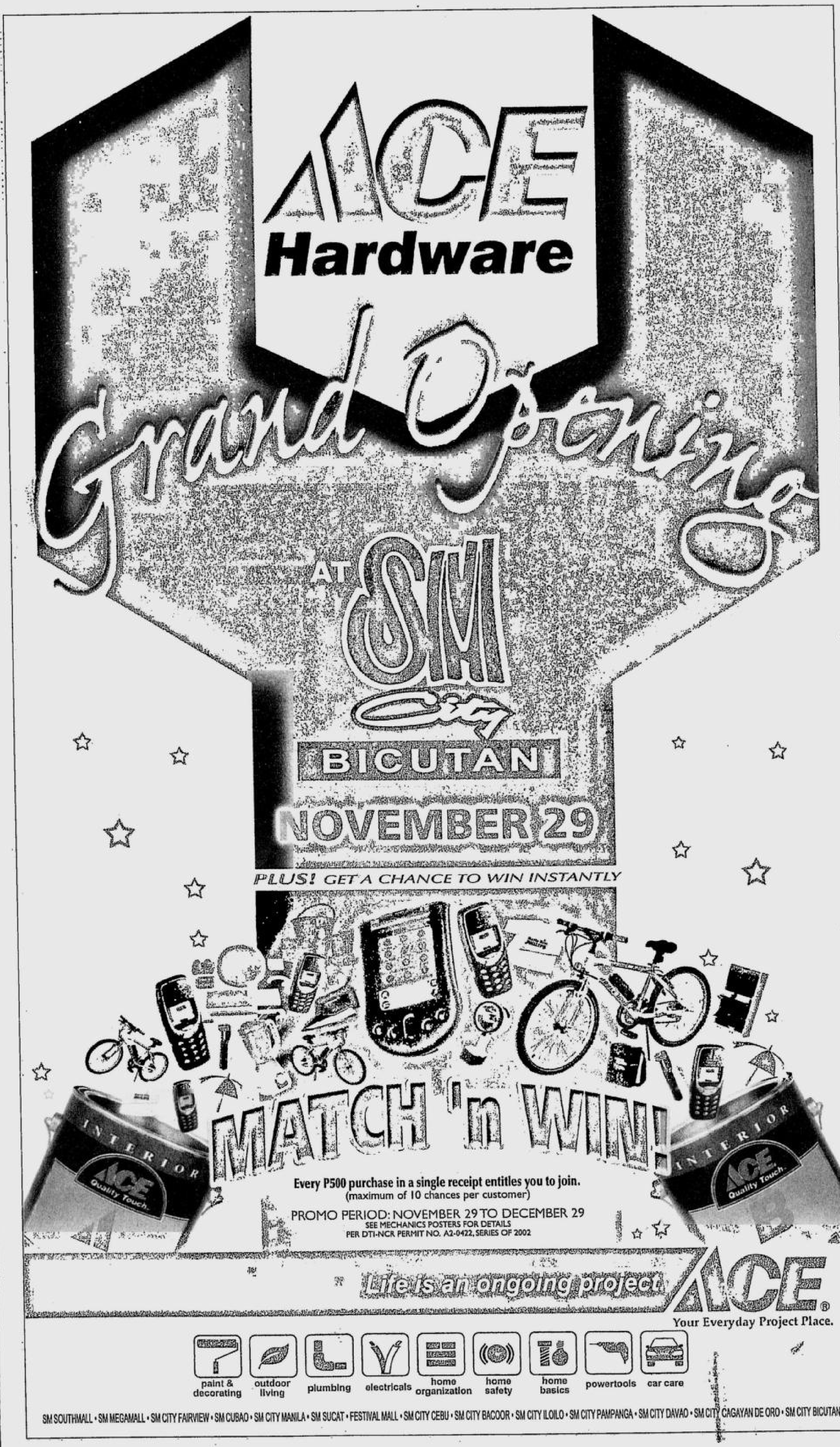
BELGIAN polyester throw pillows with tassels, Thai silk runners in blue, red and gold, and Moroccan star lamp (without stand)



BELGIAN polyester throw pillows with embroidery and fringes, and bolster pillow with tassels

MOROCCAN star lamp; red jar, wide blue plate, yellow flat jar with cover, small yellow flat jar—all with silver trimmings; Teakwood stool from Yogyakarta, Belgian polyester throw pillows with tassels



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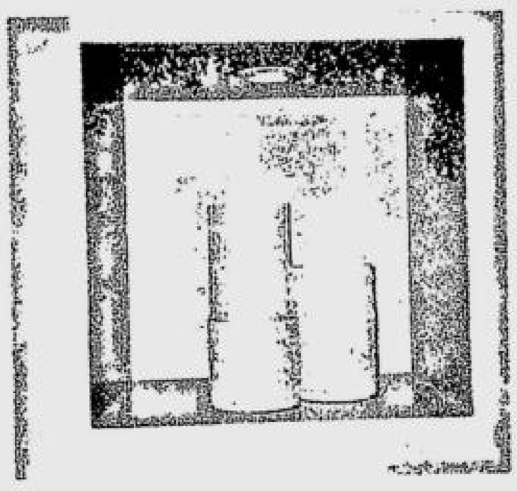
Christmas with a Middle Eastern twist

URBAN Effects, the specialty home store at Glorietta 4 and BF Homes, draws inspiration from the exuberant designs of Morocco and puts together an ensemble that evokes Christmas cheer without the Christmas kitsch.

The line includes a cut-glass Moroccan star lamp that is available in green, yellow and plum. Ceramic wares with silver trimmings come in deep red, rich blue, bright yellow and white. There are also Thai silk runners and Belgian polyester throw pillows.

Call 728-8716 or 825-9759.

NATURAL material laundry basket from Yogyakarta, star lamp, ceramic bowl with silver trimmings, Moroccan jar with silver trimmings, ashtray, flat jar, small jar,polyester throw pillows



PUKA shell votives that can be used as vases or candle holders

Bazaar for bargain hunters

THE RUSTANS Marketing Corp. is giving holiday shoppers the best bargain this season. For Christmas gifts and last-minute shopping spree, shop at the Angel Sent Bazaars at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Dec. 14-15 and Dec. 21-22.

On sale are YSL Menswear, Jack Nicklaus, Branded Fragrances, Citreshine, Sebtefal, Rowenta, Hawaiian Tropic and more. Also at big bargain prices are arts and crafts from the countryside and NGO products.

The bazaar also brings the best delicacies and delicatessen from the provinces and around the world for shoppers to feast on Noche Buena. Pick from any of those one-of-a-kind gifts. Decors, RTW and charms to welcome good luck in the new year are also available.

The bazaar is open from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at the lower lobby. Admission is free and open to the public.

Call Philtrade Exhibits at 820-7879/1570.

Mall marks first year with grand sale

THIS month, The Outlet Yard is celebrating its first anniversary. It is the only "Araw-Araw Sale and Night Market Mall" in Quezon City.

The Outlet Yard will have a grand anniversary sale until Dec. 1. To kick off its anniversary, join the street and dance party at 7:30 tonight.

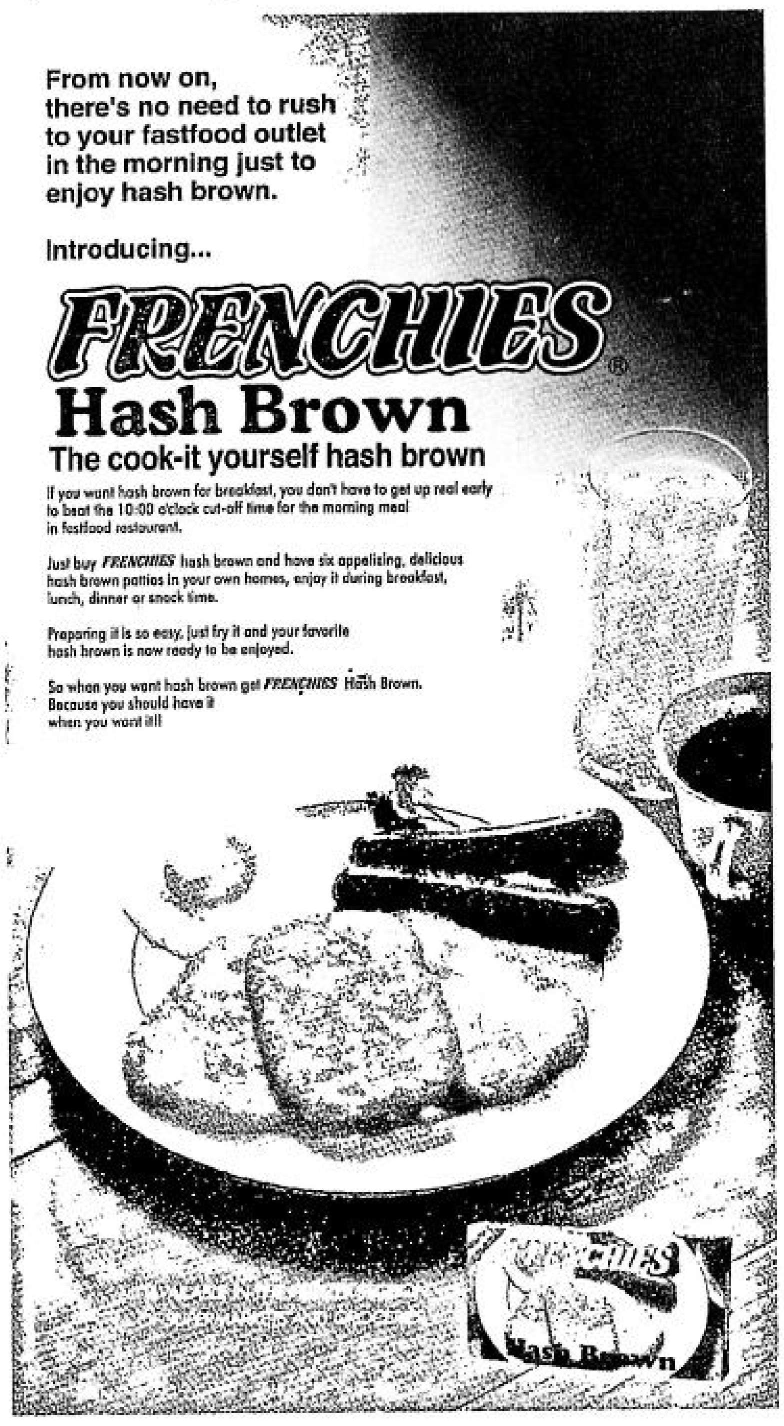
Tomorrow, it is "Pet Day" for all dog and cat aficionados. With the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and Pinoy pets.com, The Outlet Yard will host a Pet Day for pet lovers. Activities include parlor games and an art contest.

Opportunities to adopt a shelter animal abound at the Adopt-A-Pet table where photos of lovable dogs and cats will be showcased.

Initial screening of interested adoption applicants will also be conducted by PAWS. Plus, shoppers will get to meet the Doctor Dogs—extremely gentle dogs who take part in animal-assisted therapy in hospitals—and can have their pictures taken with these popular canine practitioners.

It's Cinema Mania tomorrow and on Dec. 1. Shoppers can watch award-winning films for free. Watch the independent local short movies of UP-FA's Cinema as Art Movement (CAM), featuring award-winning entries in fiction, experimental, documentary and animation. Meet the directors and producers of these must-see movies.

The Outlet Yard is located on Quezon Avenue near National Book Store. Open from Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., and Friday to Sunday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.



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Introducing...

FRENCHIES®
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Just buy FRENCHIES hash brown and have six appetising, delicious hash brown patties in your own homes, enjoy it during breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack time.

Preparing it is so easy. Just fry it and your favorite hash brown is now ready to be enjoyed.

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Dining Implement
Chomp your way through irresistible menus with dining vouchers from China Jump and Maison de Fontaine at CHIJMES, Prima Taste @ One Fullerton and selected restaurants/pubs* at Boat Quay.

Night Vision Equipment
Be on the look-out for fascinating creatures, with admission vouchers to the Night Safari.

Precious Stones
Bribe your daughter, pamper your wife and even score points with your mother-in-law with Aspial and Lee Hwa Jewellery vouchers.

Free Singapore Visitor Kit worth ₱6,800.
(Perfect for those planning a break.)

Recce
Trek across sprawling grounds with good shoes and admission vouchers to the Singapore Zoo and Jurong BirdPark.

Meeting Point
Approach
The Merlion from the air (use your Singapore Cable Car vouchers) or from the sea (use your bumboat vouchers from Singapore River Cruises & Leisure and Singapore Explorer).

The Singapore Visitor Kit
₱6,800 worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for each visitor. Singapore Visitor Kit offer valid for bookings and travel from now to 15 Dec 2002, while stocks last⁺.

Don't Miss!
- Chinatown Heritage Centre
- Images of Singapore and The Merlion on Sentosa
- Singapore Discovery Centre
- Tea at Raffles Hotel
- Gloria Jean's Tea-&-Tour at CHIJMES
- Shopping at Funan The IT Mall (Shopping vouchers for the first 100 early birds only)

⁺Terms and conditions apply.

In Singapore, the weeks between 2 November 2002 and 15 February 2003 are the year's most colourful. It's a huge experience of events, lights, tastes and irresistible shopping. And the best part is, every visitor gets ₱6,800 (SGD240) worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for the trip! Ask your travel agent for details.

Live it up! Singapore
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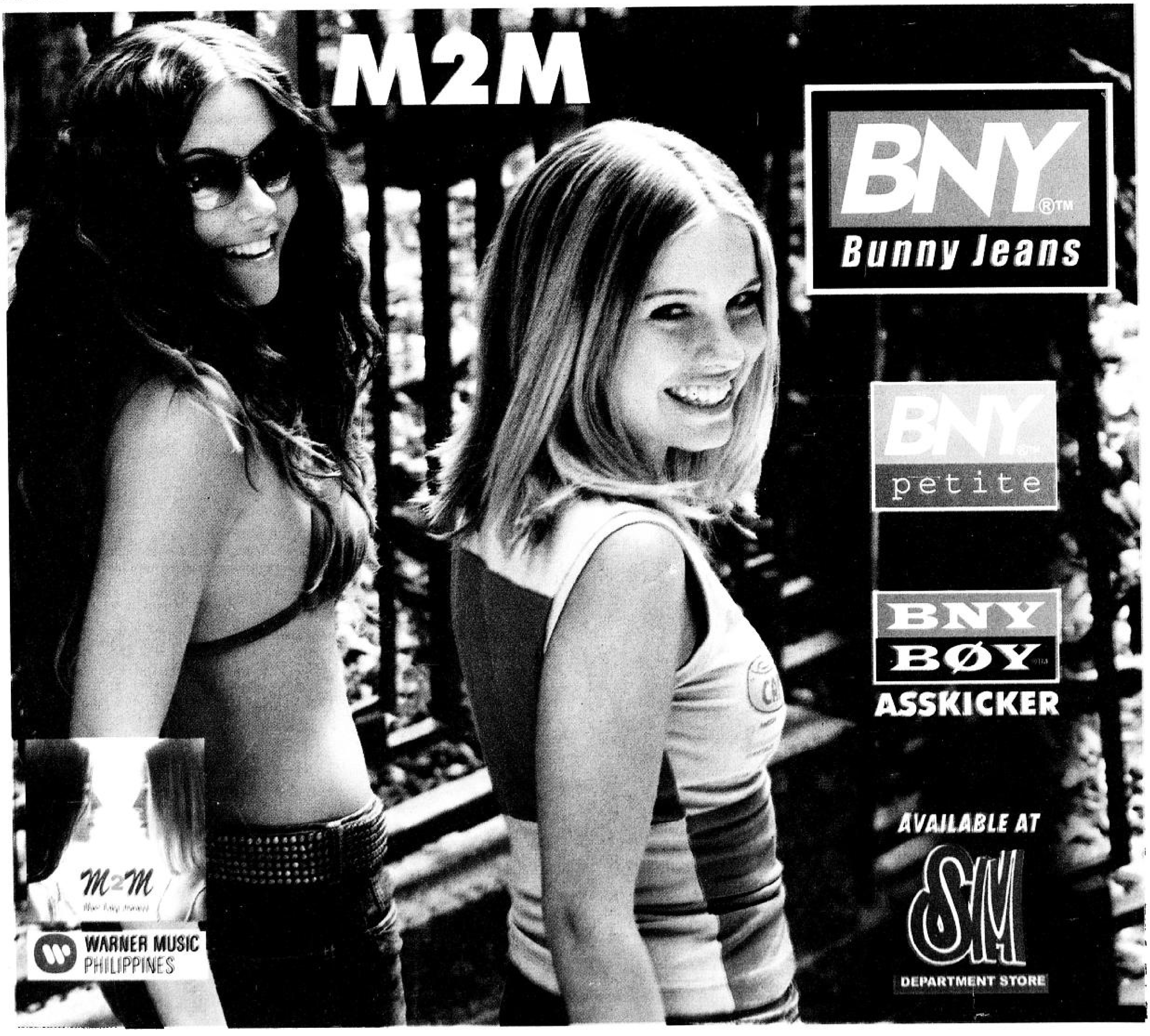
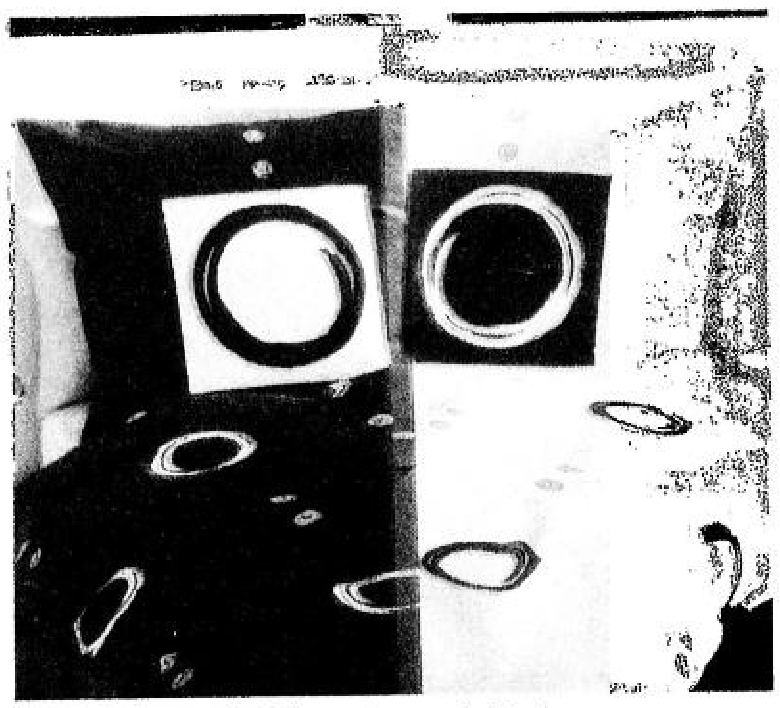
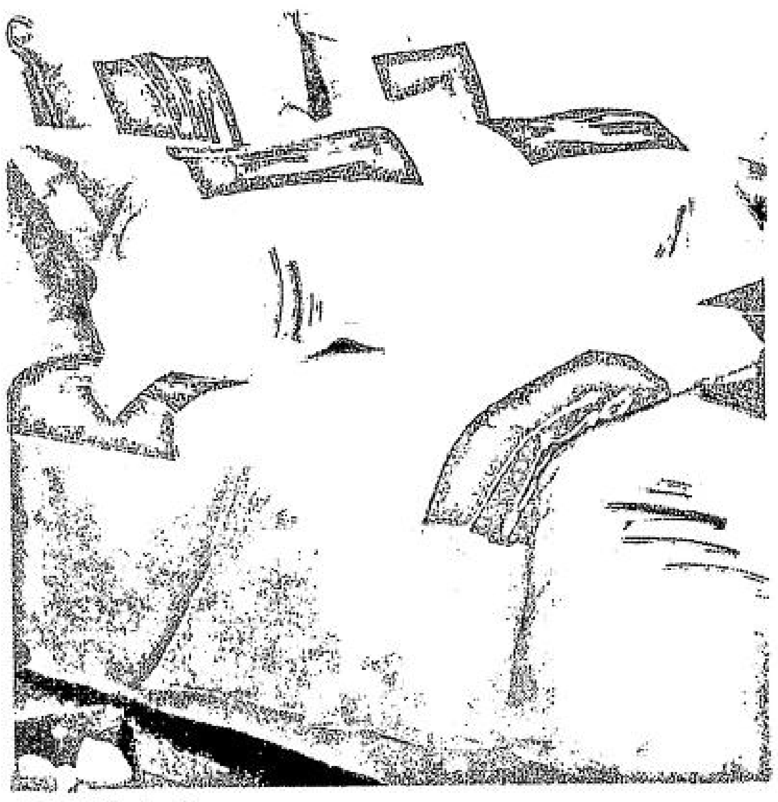
* The Penny Black, Harry's Bar, Curry House, Lago Seafood Restaurant, Harvest Seafood Restaurant, BQ Bar, Maharajah Boat Quay, Asian Wok Restaurant and Molly Malone's.
For more information, please call Singapore Tourism Board, c/o Nancy Harel & Associates, Inc. Tel: 02-636-0258. Fax: 02-636-0259. Email: stbphils@pacific.net.ph



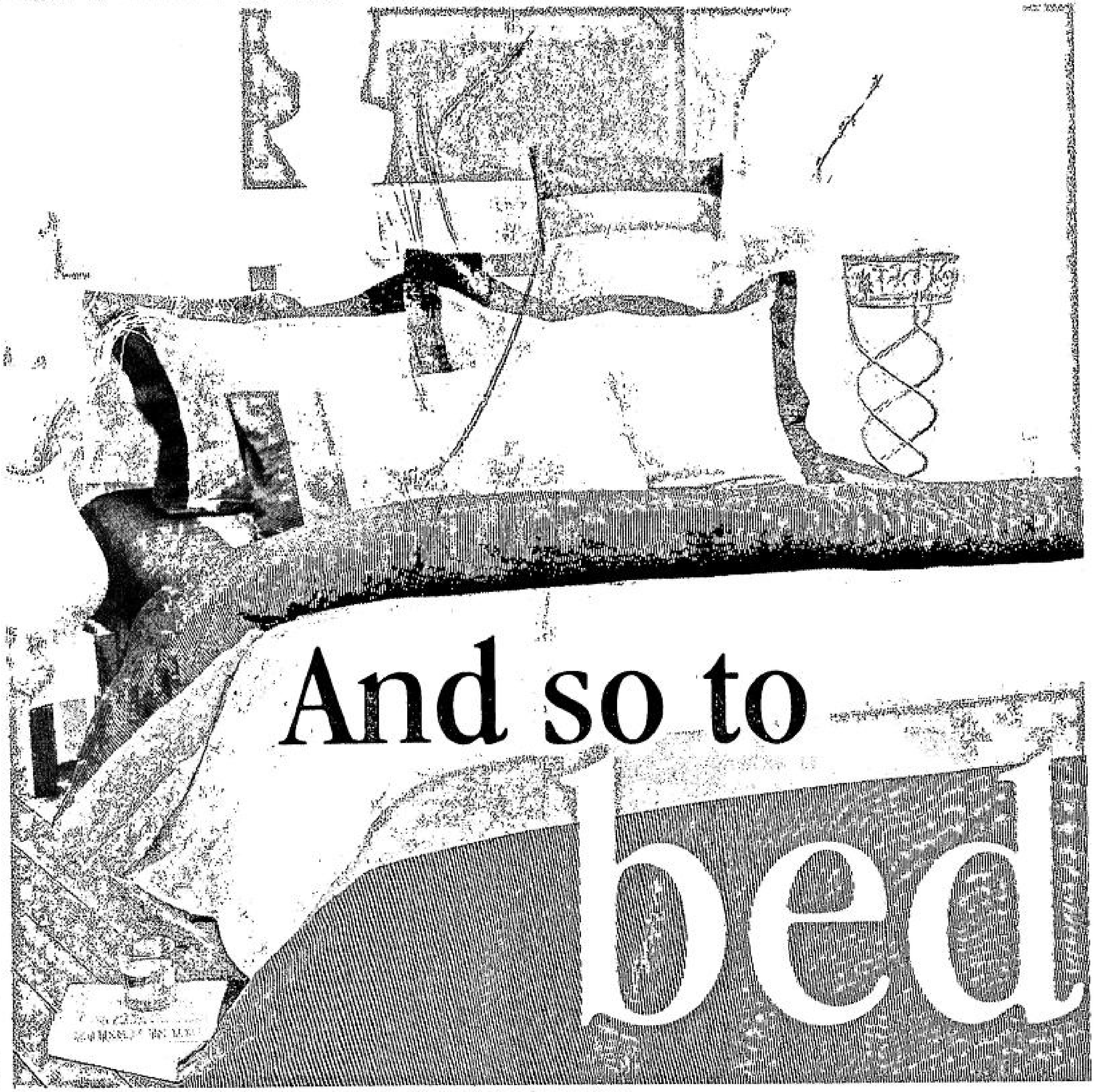


LUNA injects a touch of pizzazz to a couple's bedroom.



OSAKA is simple yet striking. It is a blend of serenity and style.

And so to bed



CASSINI would suit any bedroom but would rightly fit a man's sleeping quarters.

Play & Display's bedding sets are best described as exquisite.

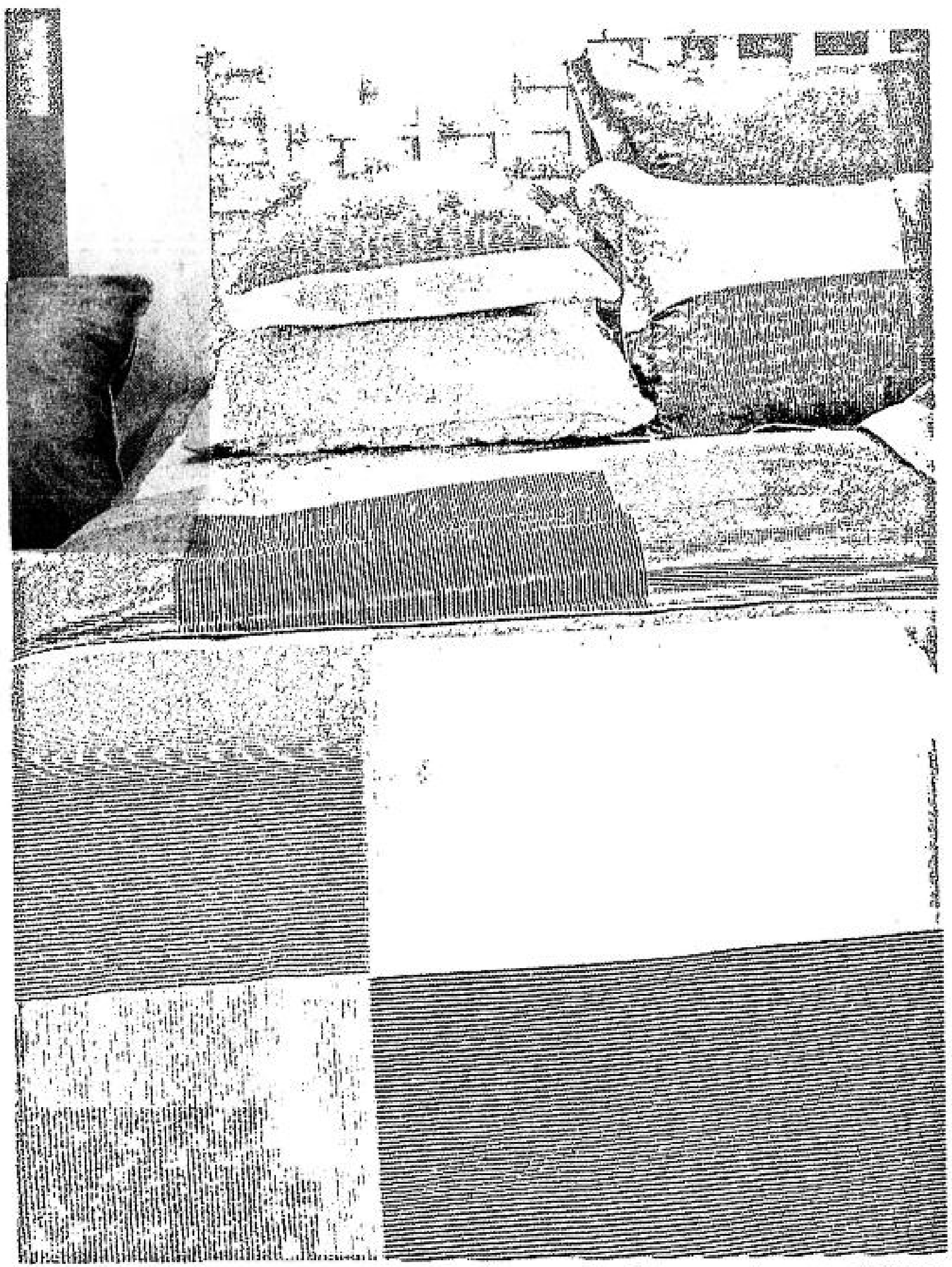
There are eight designs to choose from: Garcia, Monroe, Cassini and Lilac are twin combinations of plain colors while Luna, Picasso, Bacardi and Osaka are abstract prints.

Garcia is made of light green fabric in front with white backing that provides a lovely touch when the duvet is folded. Monroe is all bright and beautiful with red, black and orange color combination. Cassini is a mix of blue and khaki brown checks, lending a down-to-earth yet dignified look. Lilac is basically lilac in color with trimmings of purple.

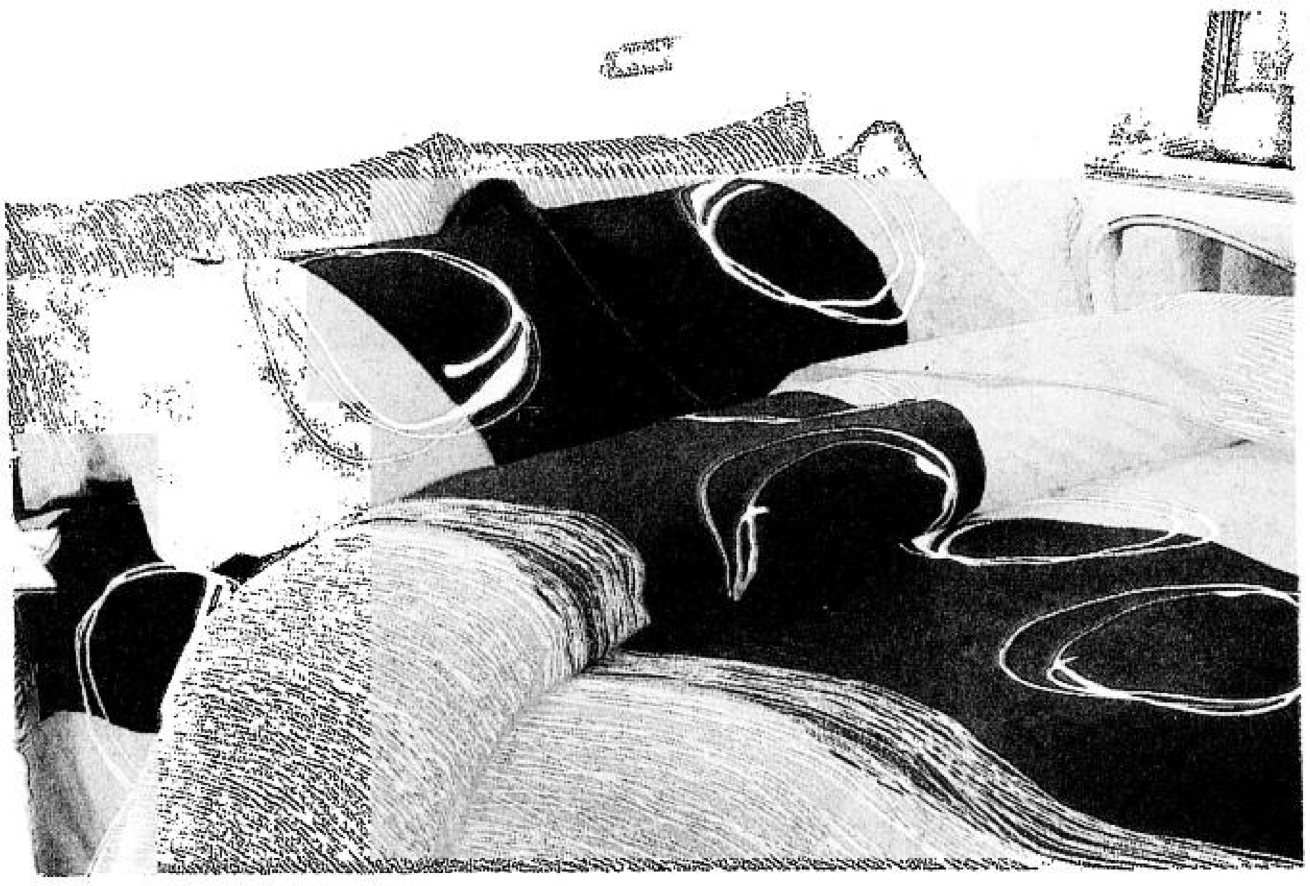
Luna has dark blue for backdrop with geometric designs as accents. Picasso lives up to the name of the famous Italian painter. Rich colors like yellow, navy blue and orange adorned with fine white lines and rings give a classic but vibrant look. Bacardi is an old favorite of large check and pinstripe designs of earth colors transcending ages and sex. Osaka, a Japanese-inspired design, is a print combination of red, light gray and white.

All beddings are made of 100-percent cotton, all imported, assuring utmost comfort. A complete set consists of one comforter or duvet, one fitted sheet, one flat sheet and five pillow cases of various sizes (two pieces standard size, one piece body-length size and two pieces throw pillow cases). Pillowcases come with or without sham. These are available in king, queen, double and single sizes.

Aside from personal use, these bedding sets also make perfect gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and the coming holidays. All are exclusively available at Play & Display. Visit its showrooms at 6797 Ayala Avenue, Glorietta 4, The Power Plant at Rockwell, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Fairview, SM Pampanga and Pavilion Mall.



BACARDI is an old favorite that appeals both to men and women of all ages.



PICASSO vibrant colors perks up any bedroom.

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Park Address: San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Makati Sales Office Address: G/F Tropical Palms Condominium, Dela Rosa St. Legaspi Village, Makati City.

She's insecure about her boyfriend's female pal

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Greetings! We, the Filipino community here in Geneva, Switzerland, would like to inform you that we are avid readers of the INQUIRER Online. Thank you for your wonderful column.

With reference to your Sept. 21 column ("His Wife Might be Having a Fantasy Lover"), please allow us to share the following about the 10 Commandments.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Kindly take note of the 10 Commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:16-21. In the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, the biblical second commandment does not exist! It disappeared!

To teach that there are actually 10 Commandments, the Church split the biblical 10th commandment into two commandments, hence the ninth and the 10th.

The consequence of this is that the majority of Filipino Christians disobey God.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

Thank you for taking the time to enlighten me—and surely many of my readers—about the 10 Commandments. As promised in the previous column, here are the Commandments (Exodus 20:30):

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.
5. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his manservant, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

I am 21, just starting my career and looking forward to life ahead. But I'm having problems with my boyfriend of three years.

He has a close female friend with whom he spends more time, and I think his family favors her more than me. When she has a date, my boyfriend usually goes with her as chaperon. He even buys her the same stuff that he gives me on special occasions.

I fell in love with him because he is thoughtful and a good man. But given the situation now, should I just give him up and entertain new suitors, or compete for his love and attention?

CONFUSED

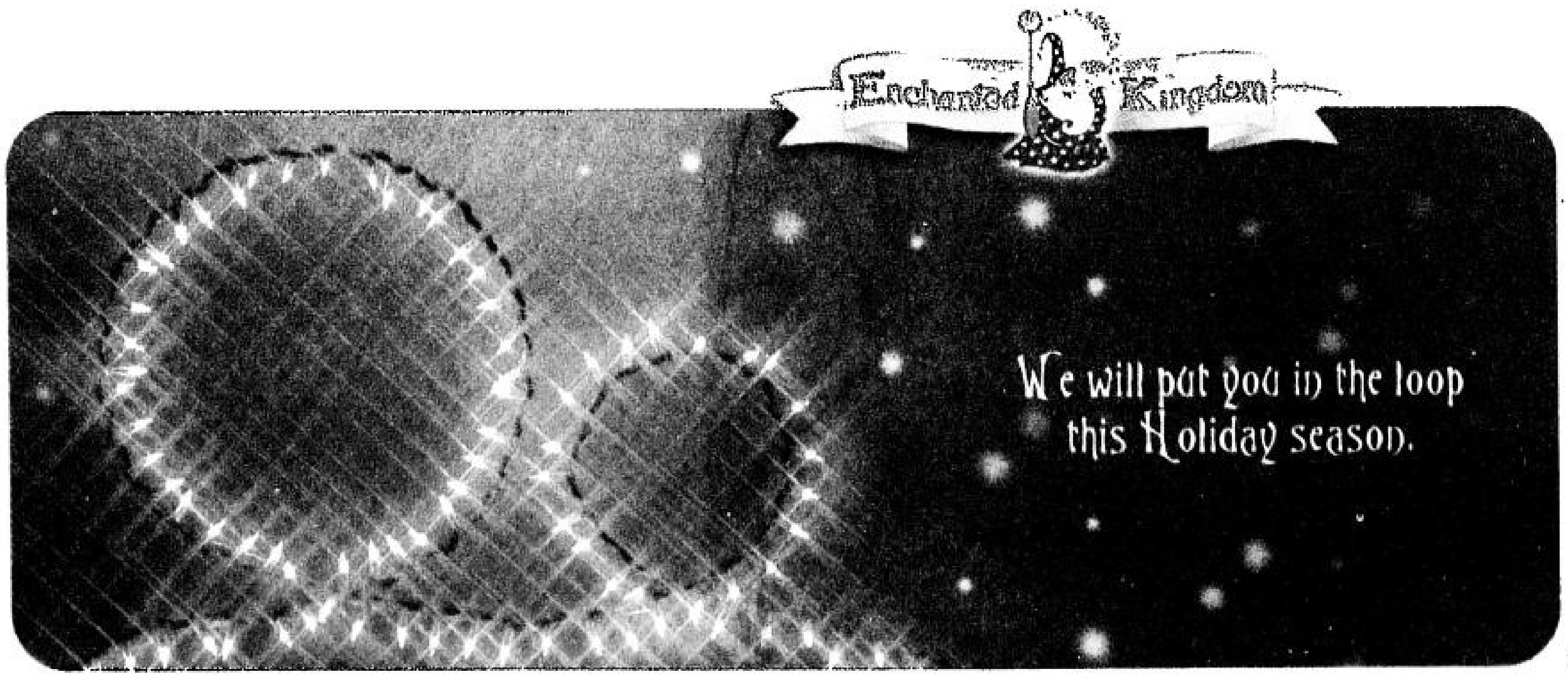
Don't entertain new suitors yet. That would be rash. After all, he is just taking more time with that lady—not all his time. And he still gives you gifts, not just her.

And if his family appears to be relating well with her, that might be simply because she has been seeing them more often than you have lately, and not necessarily because of any other reasons. Take up your complaints and doubts with your boyfriend first, and find out what he has to say.

Sometimes, when sweethearts have been together for quite a while, one of them gets so comfortable in the relationship that he or she forgets being demonstrative of his or her special feelings for the other. A small reminder to the forgetful party, plus a little time for him or her, usually solves the problem.

It is, of course, possible that he really has fallen for his female friend. If so, then your talk with him should give him the chance to come clean about it. That would hurt you, I'm sure, but at least you'd know the real score. Facing the closure in a relationship would be much, much better than suffering undefined fears and pains in a relationship that is in limbo.

THE NEXT BEST THING TO NAKED
JOCKEY



Ride-All Dec 11 to 20 weekday rate P 380	P 400
Carousel Special	P 100
Child Rate	P 250
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For inquiries, call 843-6073 to 78 or 830-2111 to 16

Effective Dec. 21, 2002 to Jan. 6, 2003, the above rates will apply.
From Dec. 11, 2002 to Jan. 6, 2003, Super Saver ticket will not be available.

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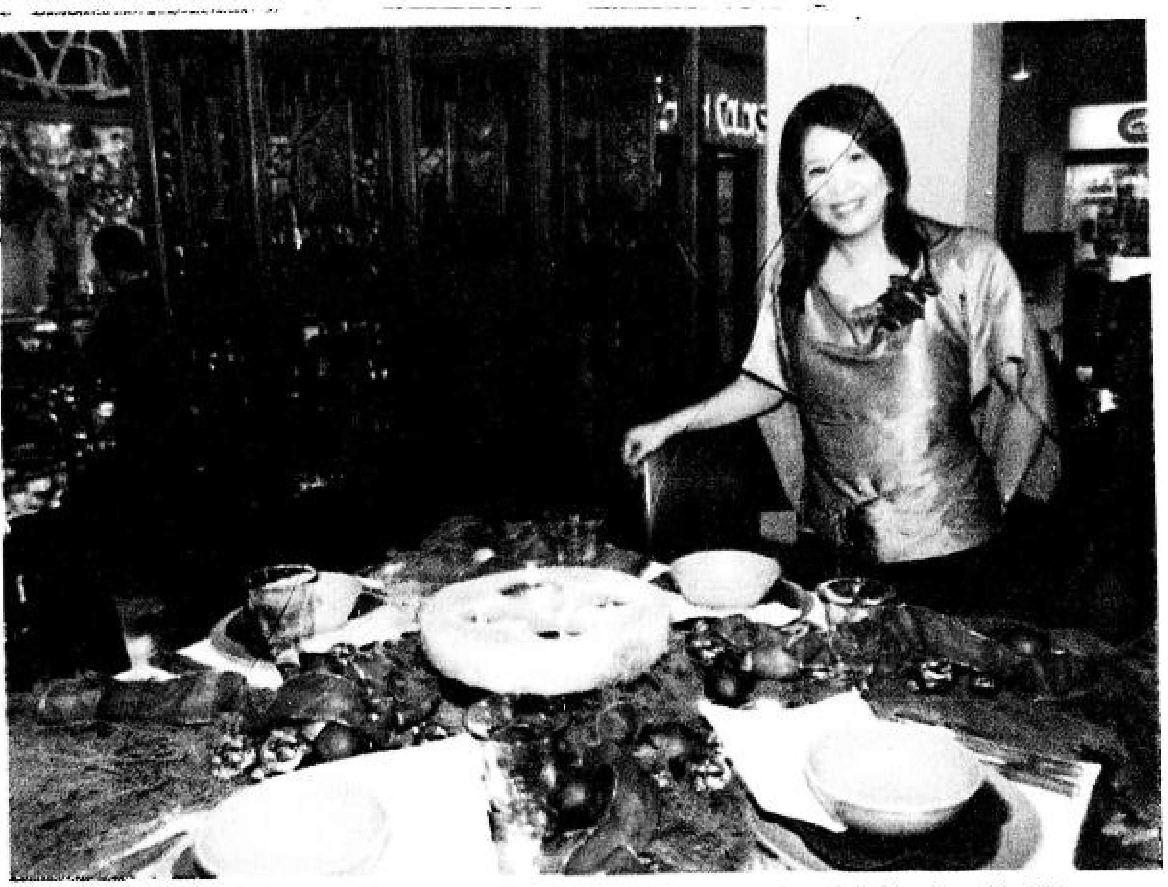
ANTICIPATING. Daphne Oseña-Paez and her table setting inspired by the Christmases of her youth. Table by Urban Effects.



SIMPLICITY. Mons Romulo-Tantoco lends a personal touch. Antique oriental divider from Shell Canvas.

Tables of joy and thanksgiving

Table settings add to the spirit of Christmas while providing a chance for a show of fine style

From page G1

extra special for their guests," she explains. The focal point of her setting is a huge dining table from Restoration, place settings from Home and Beyond and flatware from Unica Hija. An ornate, antique wooden divider from Shell Canvas provides an oriental touch. "Unless it's a state dinner, there should be no set rules. What is more important is what will make both the guests and hosts comfortable."

Moorish touches give a unique and elegant touch to Daphne Oseña-Paez's table setting. A wooden table from Rustan's with benches from Earth Colors and Unica give it a Filipino twist.

Oseña-Paez says, "These days, not too many people put an effort towards the table setting. But really, it should be as important as the food being prepared. It doesn't have to be fancy, but there should be a bit of effort placed into it."

Oseña-Paez derives inspiration from the Christmas table settings of her youth. "I grew up always with a fabulous table setting that my mom prepares especially during the holidays. She always made sure that there was space for everyone invited to dinner," she says. The most striking thing about the setting will always be the centerpiece. "They usually involved fresh flowers, fruits, pine branches and pine cones she would pick up just outside the house (in Canada). Our dining table is where everything happened—good conversation and lasting memories."

Leica Carpo of L'Oreal Philippines has put a twist of whimsy and romance in her unique table setting. Her centerpiece is a bed from Dimensione covered with sheets and pillows from Soumak Beddings. Old window doors from Kish make for an interesting and relaxed setting.

"I chose the Christmas morning breakfast-in-bed theme because it reflects all the essential ingredients of a truly memorable meal—an element of surprise, playfulness and romance."

What's your Christmas table like?

The Holiday Settings exhibit runs until Dec. 25 at the Homezone Lobby, 3/L, Glorietta 4.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

urban effects

MULTICULTURAL. Lizzie Zobel de Ayala and her cozy table setting. Carpet and *banig* sofa from Soumak.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS. Anton San Diego lights the candles on his festive holiday table. Flatware by Unica. Wine glasses from Play & Display.

LEICA Carpo and her Christmas Morning in Bed setting. Old window door from Kish. Lamps from Homebound.

Commercial center lives up to its name

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

MANILA may be losing its Mehan Gardens and Arroceros Forest Park to commercialism, but Makati is gaining a brand new garden in Ayala's renovated Greenbelt Park for the same reason.

Greenbelt is developing into a leisure destination, which Ayala developers claim is "the first and only urban retail entertainment center in the Philippines." The commercial aspects are still there, but with a difference. Instead of just plain shops, stores and dining outlets, there will also be a lot of garden features in Greenbelt Park, all throughout its almost three hectares of space.

This information about Ayala development was learned during the presscon the company held recently for its other project, the Ayala Hillside Estates (see this column, 11/22/02) in Quezon City. Meeting in Makati to talk about a Quezon City project gave us another opportunity (we've been passing through this park quite a lot lately) to see how the renovation--or greening—of Greenbelt was going.

Selling points

While dining, entertainment and shopping are undoubtedly its "selling" points, Greenbelt (divided into three phases) seeks to create a leisurely ambience by including gardens along its stretch. The gardens are divided according to themes and sites for zen, palm, fern, colored, rock, tropical, orchid and even scent gardens have been earmarked.

In front of Greenbelt 2 (locale of dining outlets Nuvo, Soleil, Cena, among others) is Moonbeam Garden, so-called because all the plants here have white flowers or light colored leaves. In Greenbelt 3, near the Santo Niño de Paz chapel, there is a lagoon with waterfalls, fishponds and interactive fountains that invite promenaders, including children, to play—safely—with the water and even in it, if so desired. The area is a natural setting for a stage where musicals and other open-air performances are held.

All the outlets along this lagoon face the park, an ideal location to set up al fresco tables. Even in the upper levels of the buildings (Greenbelt 3 has four floors with basement parking), hallways are made to look like streets, with outdoor amenities like balconies and fountains. The proliferation of flowers and foliage amid ponds and fountains shooting up water gives a different dimension to outdoor dining in an urban setting.

Nearing completion

As I write this, the renovation at Greenbelt is well into its seventh month (it started in May this year), and is scheduled for completion by December.

To make Greenbelt the place to go after the stress and strain of business activity in a commercial center like Makati, landscape architects, foreign and local, have been consulted. Their plans carefully comply with environmental considerations.

There is the matter of trees, for example. To the 440 already growing in the area, 200 new ones were added, and possibly more would be planted as buildings, whose leases are due to expire, will be dismantled and their space made into extensions of the park. Amid the trees and plants, promenades and walkways are taking shape, some of them leading to the chapel whose immediate surroundings are also undergoing alterations.

All this help to dispel lurking suspicions that Ayala projects are primarily high-rise structures for offices and condominiums, and that environmental considerations are mere afterthoughts.

It was the loss of an old Greenbelt attraction, the Aviary, that gave rise to those thoughts. (The birds in that aviary, incidentally, were donated to the Parks and Wildlife office on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.) It was heartening to learn, therefore, that as most of Greenbelt was prime land, the conversion of much of it into a garden park was meant to add to its value as a dining, cinema and entertainment complex. This proves that one can comply with environmental rules and make good business, too.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com.

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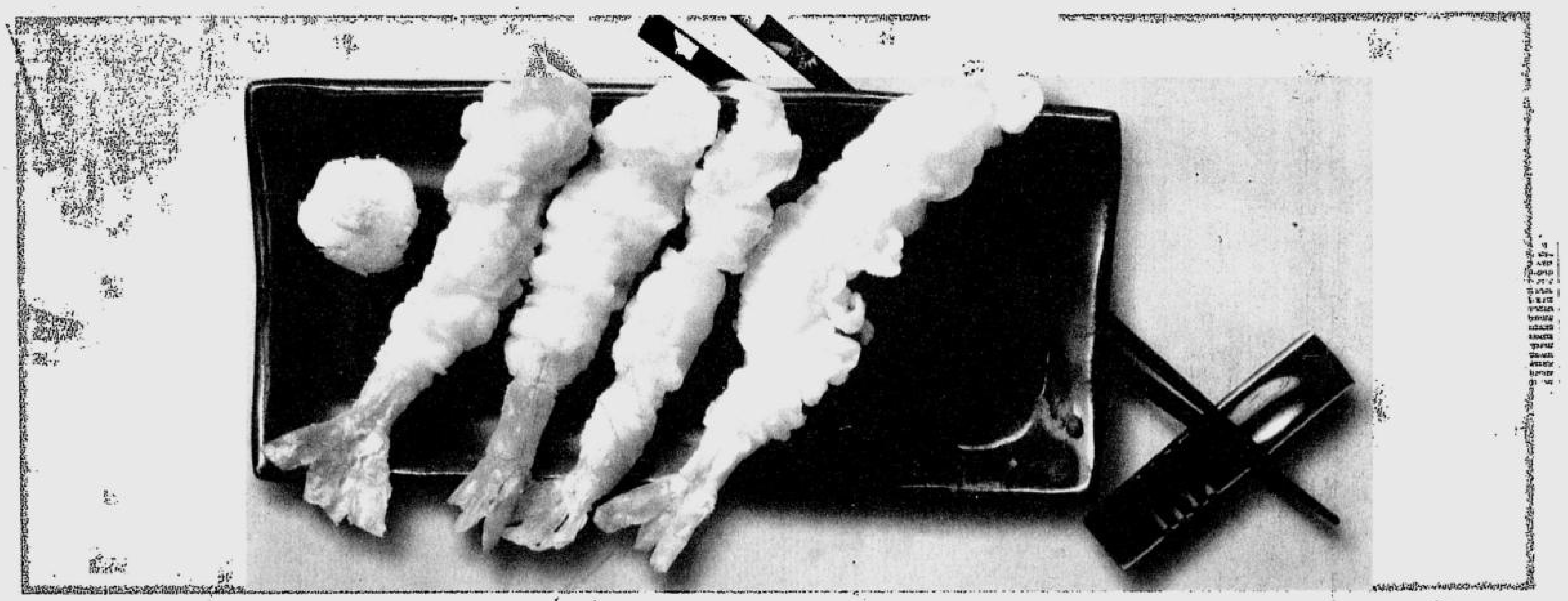
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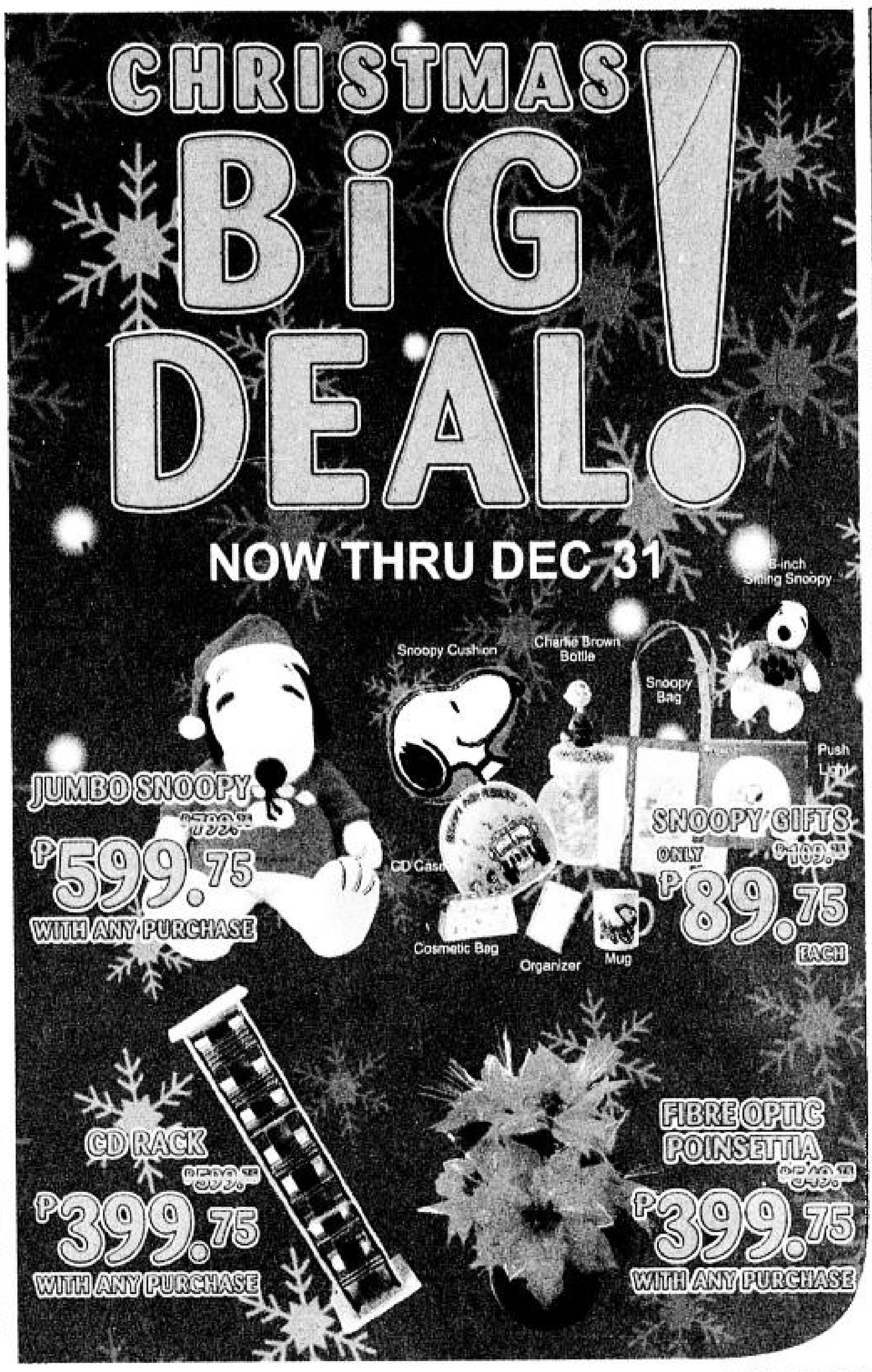

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2002 GOLDEN SHELL AWARDS

Excellence in Exports

GSA WINNERS

Seated (from left) Grace G. Gupana, Vice President, ABS Gen Herbs International Corp.; Eldie B. Plata, Manager, L&T International Group Phil. (representing Willie Tan, President); Felicidad V. Tan-Co, Citem Executive Director, Dr. Thomas G. Aquino, DTI Undersecretary; Marcial C. Lacson, Executive Vice President, Calfurn Manufacturing Philippines Inc. and Jen Elizabeth C. Siarot, Marketing Manager, Arden Classic Inc. Standing (from left) Benito S. Tan, President, Las Palmas Furniture Inc.; Fermin C. Taruc, President, Jupiter Systems Inc.; Neil B. Abejuela, Operator Manager, Mt. Kitanglad Agri-Ventures Inc. and Ricardo T. Lu, CEO, Remcor Industrial and Manufacturing Inc.

MESSAGE

Our warmest greetings, sincerest congratulations and best wishes to the *2002 Golden Shell Awardees* in the Excellence Category and Special Citation/Recognition.

Despite tough challenges posed by weak and floundering global markets over the past five years, it is heartening to note that many Filipino exporters have remained resolute in their efforts not only to maintain if not grow their overseas markets but also even to excel in the various technical aspects of the export business.

The best of the breed constitute this year's *2002 Golden Shell Awardees*. On top of recording consistent export performances over the past five consecutive years, these winning enterprises also meet the GSA's other stringent basic requisites of good corporate citizenship. This year's winners have also been chosen for their commitment to total quality manufacturing processes – for their efforts in strengthening their product quality and service capabilities in global markets and for adopting innovative approaches to make their company's competitive advantages sharper still.

This year, we are also recognizing outstanding performers in the areas of countryside development, ecologically-sound production system, and the development of new products and services for the export market, as well as two Filipinos for the international distinction they have earned in the area of contemporary design.

As the 21st century global economy becomes even more borderless, our enterprises and products must become progressively excellent and world class to withstand the increasingly stiff competition in the international environment – the way to go if we are to survive, grow and prosper in the export business. In this game, our winners and honorees serve as shining testimonies that the Filipino, indeed, has what it takes to conquer the world despite formidable odds.

May our sea of entrepreneurs wash forth more golden shells to the shores of excellence.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department
of Trade
and Industry

2002 GOLDEN SHELL AWARDS

Prestigious Prize for Export Leadership and Excellence

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) once again recognizes export companies that have become trailblazers in the international market with the Golden Shell Awards.

Started in 1983, the Golden Shell Awards is the most prestigious award given to export companies for their exemplary performance and contributions to the export market through excellence in design, manufacturing, and marketing. On its 16th edition, this prestigious award is an affirmation of a company's achievements in the export industry through efficient manufacturing processes, effective marketing strategies, or introduction of innovative products and services.

The Golden Shell Awards follows a strict selection process designed to weed out companies that do not meet its stringent standards. Overall efficiency in exports, particularly total quality management, manufacturing, research & development, product quality, marketing, and financial viability, are considered. Nominations are open to all product sectors. Nominees undergo a two-level assessment. The Technical Screening Committee is chaired by CITEM Executive Director Felicidad V. Tan-Co. DTI Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino heads this year's Board of Judges.

Since its inception, a total of 144 companies have received the Golden Shell Awards. Five more companies will join this elite group. Their winning edge is their commitment to total quality manufacturing processes.

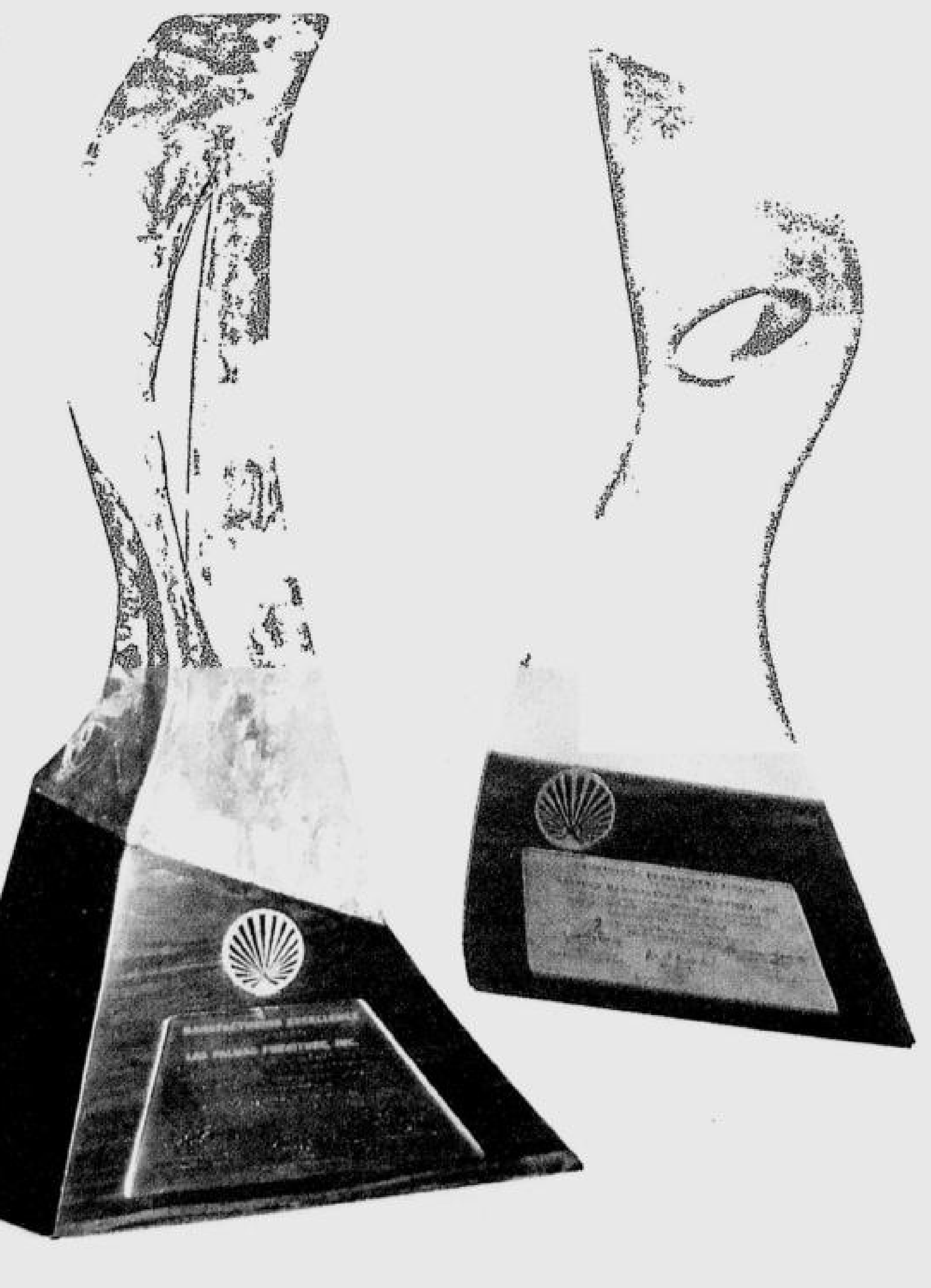
Included in the main categories since 1995, the Rising Star Citation is given to companies that have successfully introduced a relatively new product or service in the export market. To date, seventeen companies were already given this citation.

Started in 2000, the Countryside Development Citation is given to companies that contributed to the employment generation in the regions and provided assistance to regional subcontractors. This citation is given only to companies vying for Design, Manufacturing, and Marketing Excellence.

In this changing global economy where only the fittest survive, this year's winners chose to improve the quality of their products, and upscale their manufacturing process, thus becoming globally competitive.

This year, DTI also gives special recognition to *Ann T. Pamintuan* and *Kenneth C. Cobonpue* for landing in the prestigious International Design Yearbook 2002, considered by most as the definitive guide on contemporary design. They also share the distinction of being the first two Asians to be featured in this prestigious publication. The international Design Yearbook, 2002 edition, brings together 200 of the best designs from the past year selected by the acclaimed British furniture and product designer, Ross Lovegrove.

These are the 2002 Golden Shell Awardees: forward-thinking visionaries who have carved a niche in the global market, and changed the way the world looks at Philippine products and services.



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2002 GOLDEN SHELL AWARDEES

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Rising Star Citation

ABS GEN HERBS INTERNATIONAL INC.
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JUPITER SYSTEMS, INC.

DEVELOPER OF ERIC ENTERPRISE RESOURCE INFORMATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM,
A TRULY WORLD CLASS FILIPINO ERP SOFTWARE PRODUCT.

FOR WINNING THE
GOLDEN SHELL- RISING STAR CITATION FOR 2002

ARDEN CLASSIC, INC.

Finding a niche in the global market

IN March 1993, husband and wife team Arden and Jen Siarot decided to start a small business making miniature dining furniture that was sold to a department store in Cebu. Arden and Jen were still working then and used their earnings to finance the small business.

Jen Elizabeth Siarot

The break for the couple's business came when a former boss of Arden commissioned the small company to produce silver solder wires for a furniture company. He saw the quality of the miniature items and later requested for fine brass accessories made from silver solder wires.

"He was so impressed by our craftsmanship that his orders kept on increasing," says Jen.

With a wide expertise in fine brass fabrication, the company also ventured in the fabrication of intricate wrought iron furniture. For nine years, the small company became one of the finest sub-contractor of a big furniture exporter in Cebu.

"However, Arden and I wanted to make a name of our own and decided to make our own products," says Jen. "With only a few accessory items, we approached the Department of Trade and Industry in 1997 and asked assistance on how to market our products."

In August that year, with DTI's sponsorship, the couple joined a local exhibition where they met their very first foreign buyer. And after that encounter, and within five years, the couple, through their company Arden Classic, Inc., began exporting furniture and furnishing products to US, Australia, Middle East, Europe, Africa, and Central America.

"We had a vision and dream and pursued them through hard work, perseverance, sincerity, loyalty, application of skills and expertise and not losing sight of our beginnings and the people who have helped us along the way," says Jen of the company's success.

The Golden Shell Award for manufacturing excellence in exports is a most welcome recognition for the couple. "It serves as an inspiration for us to continue improving our performance and become one of the best in today's highly competitive global market."

"We found and made our own niche in the global market through quality, on-time delivery, consistency, attainment of skills excellence, and application of such skills with versatility and flexibility, and most importantly, look at customer needs and adapt according to their needs."

CALFURN MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES, INC.

Generating jobs and caring for the environment

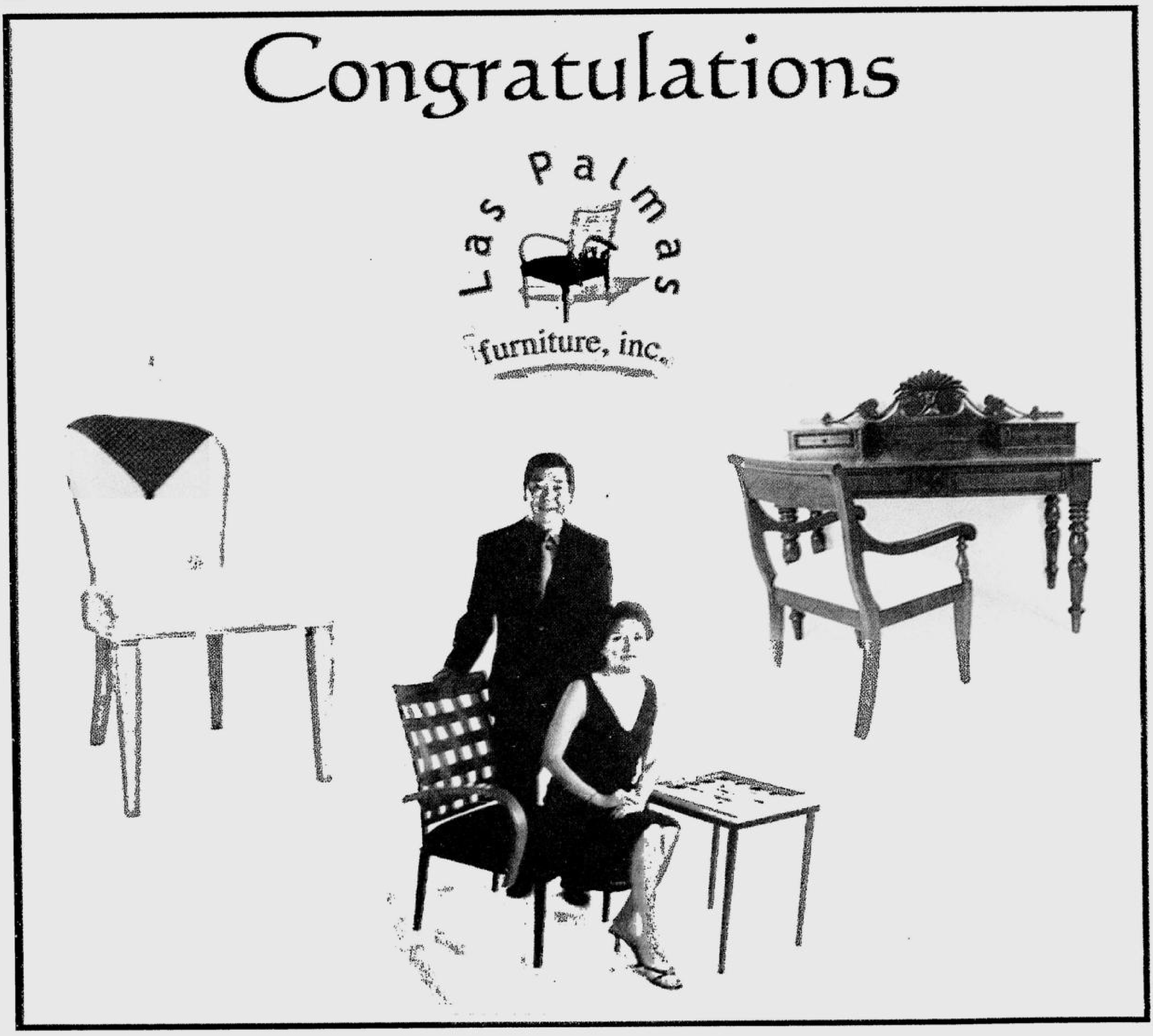
IN the 1980s, this company exported to the world the very first color-dyed wicker. Called the Alexandria Collection, this furniture collection with abaca blue rose finish doubled the company's sales and started the company in creating markets abroad.

Calfurn Manufacturing Philippines, Inc., a rattan and wicker furniture manufacturing company, was started by only a group of seven people in 1976, with only P30,500 capital. It is now part and is the largest among the Aweca Group of Companies, the largest furniture company in Pampanga employing around 5,000 people.

Also part of the Aweca Group are Asia Rattan (furniture manufacturer and exporter) Weaverscraft (furniture accessories manufacturer and exporter), Aweca Exim (raw materials trader), Aweca Cargo (hauler), Aweca International Forwarding Company (forwarder), Aweca AgroForest (forest caretaker) and the Aweca Foundation.

Calfurn initially sold its products to American servicemen stationed in the former US Bases of Clark and Subic, as well as to the expatriates living in Manila.

Experts in woven furniture, Calfurn has ex-



LAS PALMAS FURNITURE

Commitment to quality and fair price

OVER the years, Las Palmas continues to be a leading exporter of furniture and house accessories in key cities in the world. Notwithstanding the challenges, this family business now thrives both in the domestic and foreign market supplying mostly to hotels and offices.

The brains behind Las Palmas Furniture are husband and wife Benny and Jezebel Tan. They now run the business based in Angeles, Pampanga, together with their sons, daughter, and in-laws. From a production team of seven, they now employ over 180 workers.

Benny and Jezebel Tan.

"We like to call it a mom-and-pop operation," says Erwin Tan, eldest son and is in charge of the marketing operations.

Their clientele in the '80s was largely composed of the Americans staying in the former US bases in Clark and Subic. When the Americans left, the family saw it as an opportunity to export their products to different countries. At present, Las Palmas furniture are found in hotels and other offices in the US, Europe, and Asia.

Determined to improve their products, the elder Tan went to study in the US through a course offered by the United States Department of Agriculture during the early years of the business. He then applied the skills and technical expertise he acquired from the US in developing quality furniture. To keep up with the competition, Tan invested in new machinery and the skills of several in-house designers.

From trading rattan furniture, the Tan's business now specializes in wood, rattan, and iron furniture and accessories.

The intricate and classy designs of Las Palmas Furniture distinguish the company from the others. A mix of local and imported materials is used in the production. "We make it a point that our products is of the highest quality standards and at the same time fair in price," says Erwin.

"The export industry is very critical. You must have the right materials, product and the right price. You're competing against the world," says Erwin. Trade shows organized by Citem helps Las Palmas Furniture to capture the domestic and foreign markets.

"The Golden Shell Award is a challenge for us to excel more or even surpass our standards now," Erwin says. ***Marlet D. Salazar***

Eredito P. Feliciano and Angelo R. Baltazar (seated)

panded its products from simple rattan and wicker pieces, to sophisticated woven furniture using different indigenous materials. It had developed its competence with many years of dealing with different furniture experts, designers, traders, and buyers all over the world.

Calfurn's raw materials come mostly from Aweca Exim, raw materials trader.

Calfurn's products have represented Filipino craftsmanship to the world by bringing out quality and design distinctive of Filipino style.

Calfurn continuously innovate its products and processes to meet the most difficult needs of its customers. The Golden Shell Award for the company is a testimony of Calfurn's ongoing quest for excellence. The award serves as a starting point towards doing greater things.

Congratulations

www.calfurnphils.com

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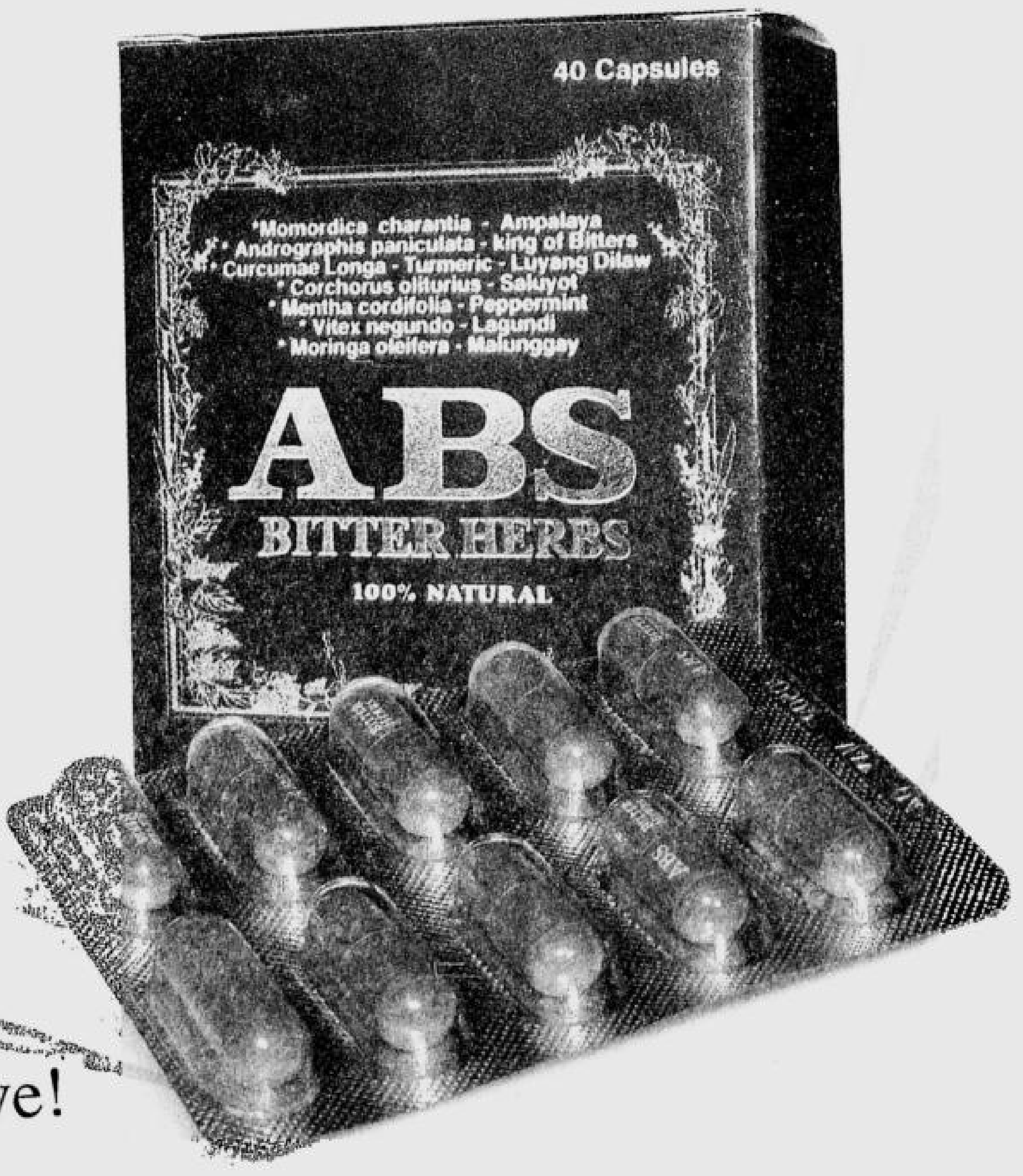
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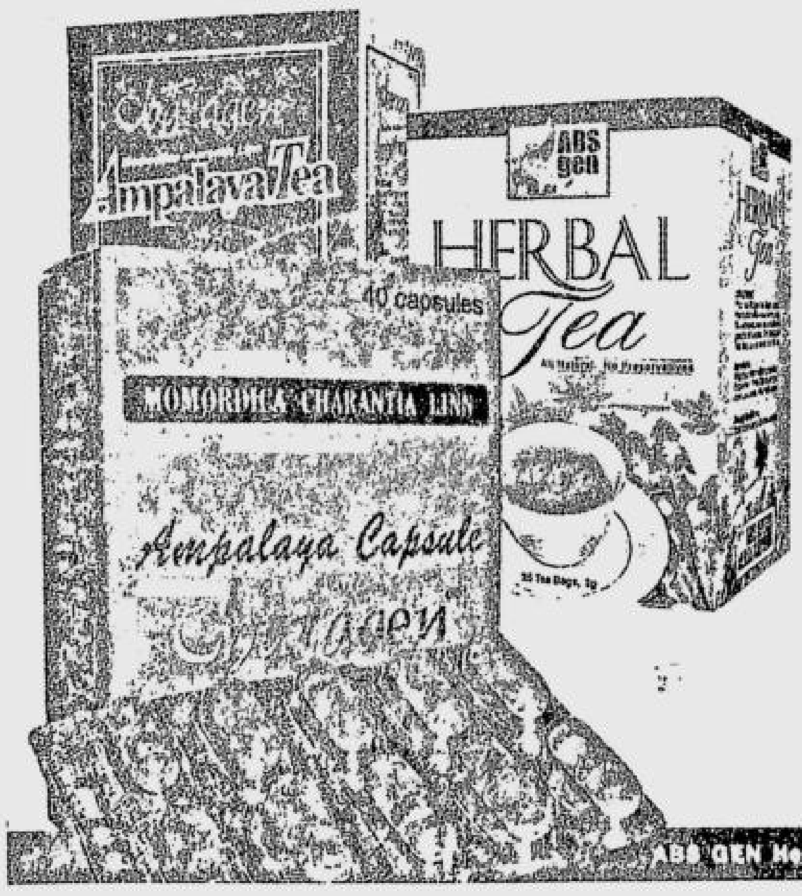

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L & T INTERNATIONAL GROUP PHILS., INC.

One stop-shop supply chain

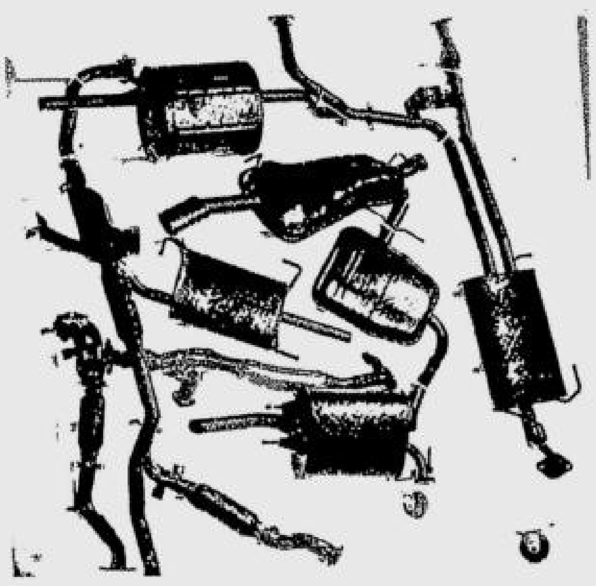
Willie Tan

For its integrated supply chain information that greatly improved efficiency and total service to its clients, L&T International Group Philippines is presented with the Golden Shell Awards for **Manufacturing Excellence**. By transforming the company into a "one-stop-shop" supply chain solution, the company evolved to become one of the largest garment manufacturers. L&T International Group Philippines, Inc. is a major supplier to the best known and top selling brands in the world such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Brooks Brothers, CK Jeans, DKNY, J Crew, Eddie Bauer, Evan-Pincone, Gap, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nautica, Nordstrom, Sears, Liz Claiborne, and Tommy Hilfiger. It is a full-service company known for its strength in operations, excellent facilities, advance IT support, and certified ISO 9002 standards of quality.

The company's commitment to Total Quality Management (TQM earned for the company three certificates on Social Compliance based on 8000· standards for providing the best workplace and conditions for its employees. This is L & T's guarantee to its customers that products are made under certified work-class compliant terms.

REMCOR INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING CORP.

Growing an export business from mufflers



REMCOR/HS

THE PHILIPPINES is a source of quality and affordable mufflers that are now currently in big demand and used in the US.

And this is through the efforts of a Filipino company that makes use of the resources here and has established a good client-customer relationship abroad.

Cristina Lu, managing director of Remcor Industrial and Manufacturing Corp., says the company currently produces about 450 part numbers (the types of mufflers) for export to the US. This translates to about seven containers of mufflers exported each month.

"The key is always develop-

CONGRATULATIONS TO

JUPITER SYSTEMS, INC.

Developer of ERIC Enterprise Resource
Information and Control System,
a Truly World Class Filipino
ERP Software product

For winning the

Golden Shell
Rising Star Citation for 2002

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INCORPORATED

Of Soong II, Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
For having been chosen as winner for]

THE 2002 GOLDEN SHELL AWARD FOR
MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

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ABS GEN HERBS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

Herbal supplements reaching consumers' consciousness

NO less than Gary Valenciano, a diabetic, uses and endorses the ampalaya-based ABS herbal products, food supplements that have been proven to help in the maintenance of diabetes.

Who's behind ABS herbal products that are becoming a recognized health supplement not only among diabetics, but in other people as well?

Paul and Grace Gupana

Husband and wife Paul and Grace Gupana wanted to explore opportunities to improve people's reach for some basic nutritional necessities. As a result, the couple put up ABSGen International Corporation, Phils. in 1999, to produce encapsulated food supplement from a combination of seven bitter herbs, naturally and locally grown and possess healing effects.

The products are the result of deliberate research and experimentation. As natural formulations, they aim to supplement an individual's necessary fiber dietary requirement and aid in the prevention of common ailments and in eliminating toxins in the body.

There are four major products, namely ABS Bitter Herbs in capsules, ABS Herbal Tea, Charagen Ampalaya Capsule and the Ampalaya Tea.

Apart from the successful formulation of the potent herbs, ABSGen professed the mission to make these essential food supplements readily available for consumption as they come in convenient capsule-blister packs and in tea bags.

ABS products are known in the market as an affordable, effective and available source of energy and protection from sickness.

These products was the first and innovative offering to busy Filipinos, healthy or not so healthy, young and old and for those who believe in herbal alternatives, but could not have access to the necessary herbs. If they do, however, they lack the time to process and formulate the herbs to obtain potent doses.

Paul and Grace believed that the convenient herbal products would be accepted readily in the market. The trend of using herbal supplements as an alternative in gaining good health had started. But the products were met with skepticism. Thus the market had to be developed, through various marketing schemes, to make people know the benefits of alternative medicine and herbal food supplements.

After three years, ABS products have established a market and were remarkably accepted by the consumers, which resulted in very encouraging sales volumes.

ABSGen has now developed markets all over the country and overseas such as US, Guam, Japan and even in the Middle East.

People's awareness of the ABS herbal products intensifies because of its reported efficacy. TV and Printed Advertisements are in full swing as well as ABSGen's participation in local and international trade fairs.

Like many other entrepreneurs, Grace and Paul played multiple roles in running their new business. They did procurement, cashiering and accounting, R and D and even promotions and marketing. There are however general pointers that stand out in the company's success. The company has defined and specified strategies that include nationwide reach of products and availability and affordability of the products.

ABSGen devotes time in getting consumer feedback and engaging in more research. Testimonials and other forms of communication with customer enable the company to evaluate and re-orient its marketing programs.

Constant tracking of operations and honing of marketing skills have always been essential in the efforts of the company to market ABS products. The company's marketing efforts is complemented by a strong and positive culture within the firm and among the employees, distributors and dealers.

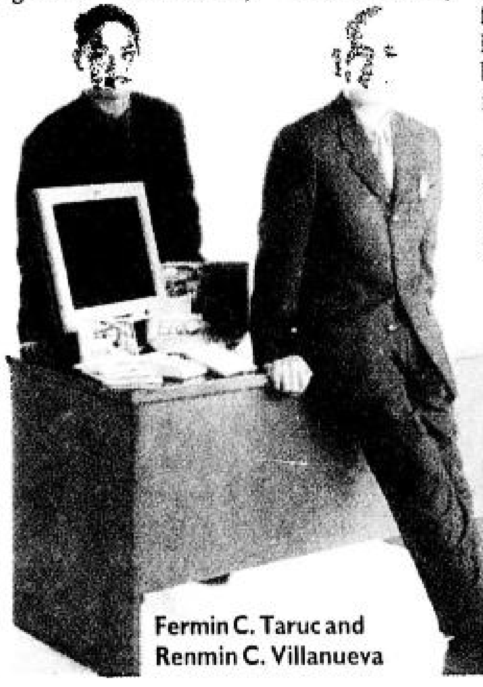
The Golden Shell Award (Rising Star Category) is recognition of efforts exerted by the company in creating an enterprise with products that mobilized the people to be aware of their well being as well as generate economic activity for dealers and distributors.

JUPITER SYSTEMS INC.

Bringing enterprise applications to SMEs

IN the mid 1980s, two young professionals wanted to bring enterprise application to the SME market. They focused on computers and tried new innovations. After 17 years, Jupiter Systems Inc. has been involved in software development, consulting, and deployment, specializing in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) for manufacturing and distribution companies.

JSI is the maker of the Enterprise Resource Information and Control System (ERIC), comprehensive array of integrated financial, distribution, manufacturing, and personnel applications. During its first introduction in 1985, ERIC ran 1.0 DOS and was a standalone system. Not long after, JSI released 2.x on Unix. The move to client-server architecture enabled ERIC to have a multi-user set up. In the early 1990s, a simplified Chinese version became available and was actively marketed in Hong Kong and China through a reseller. At this time, installation base of ERIC increased to over 700 companies in the Philippines and about 50 companies in Hong Kong and China.



Fermin C. Taruc and Renmin C. Villanueva

At present, JSI employs over 140 professionals divided into Research and Development (R&D), Consulting and Client Services, Systems Integration, Sales and Marketing departments. About half of the organization is in R&D.

JSI's main markets for ERIC are in the medium-to-large size category for manufacturing and distribution companies. Most notable verticals are in discrete, batch-process, made-to-order, and configure-to-order manufacturing.

For the next few years, JSI aims to leverage its SME expertise, partnership with iVantage, and new ERIC 4 for the Internet to achieve greater market penetration in the Philippines and open new markets in the Asia Pacific region.

The Golden Shell rising star citation comes at a time when Jupiter Systems is aggressively pursuing export sales. This year, JSI established two joint ventures—Jupiter Systems China. Ltd. America. The citation will definitely go a long way in giving credibility to JSI and its product, ERIC. The recognition and support that goes with the GSA-Rising Star Citation adds to our competing with other world-class ERP giants.

From the time JSI started, its vision, direction, core competencies, and fundamentals have remained the same. It is aiming to provide the best, most cost efficient software solutions for companies. Today, its priority targets include Vietnam, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and the United States.

Remcor . . .

From page H4

ment of products," says Lu of Remcor's success and penetration of the US market. "You cannot export more if you have limited muffler product range." Remcor was put up by Lu's father Ricardo Lu in the early 1990s to complement the other businesses he already established.

Phil-Japan Industrial and Manufacturing Corp. and Soutech Development Corp. are among the companies established by the elder Lu. These companies provide the technical support needed by Remcor.

Remcor initially produced only 44 part numbers, which it exhibited in trade fairs organized by Citem in Germany and the US. From these trade fairs, the mufflers were recognized and a client from the US asked Remcor to make mufflers for them.

"The company started to grow from there," says Lu.

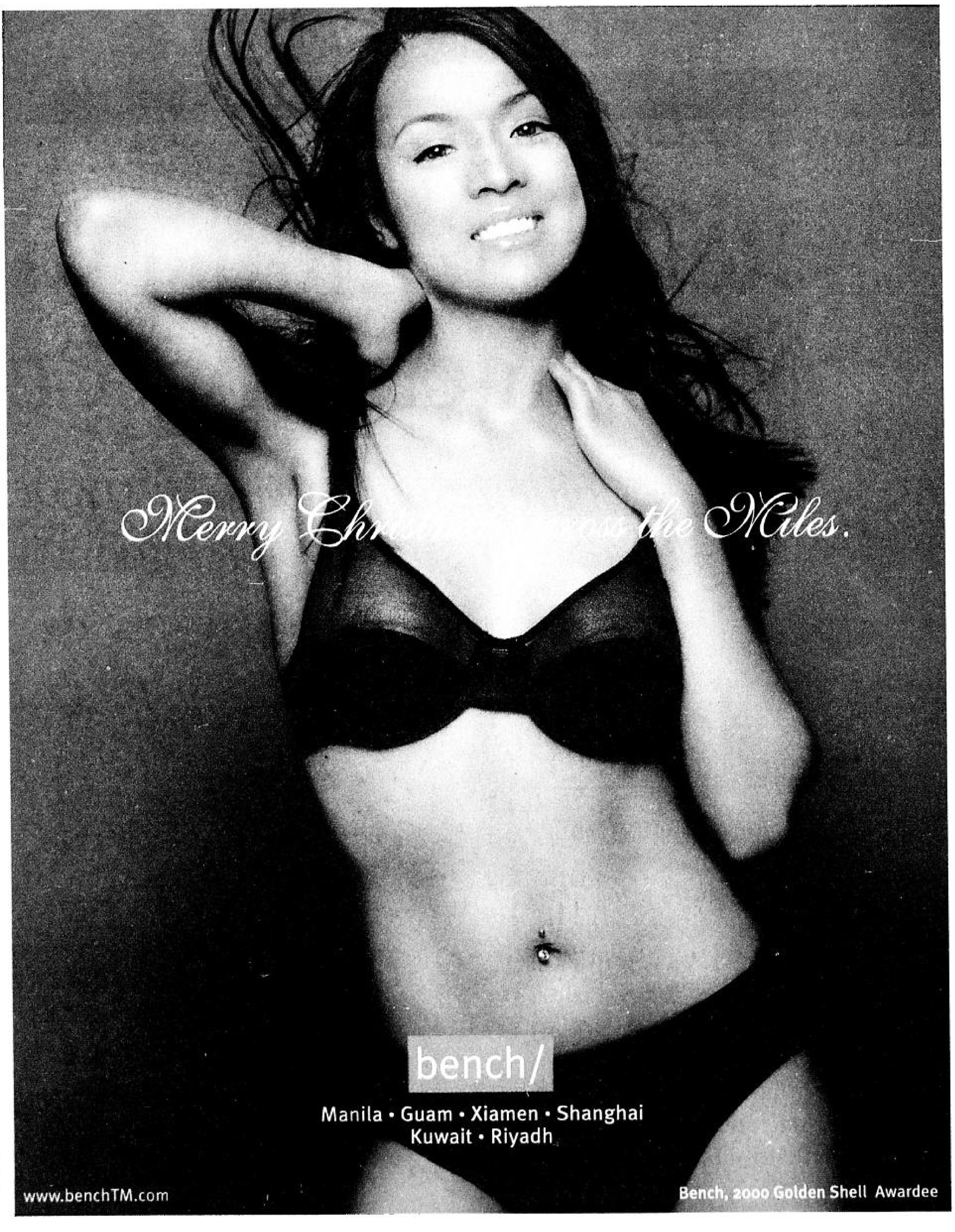
Lu cites the company's rise is due to three factors. One is the ability and capability of Remcor to develop and produce mufflers within the time frame promised. "If the customer gives us 20 part numbers then in three or four months, we can deliver the prototype."

The quality of the mufflers is at par with the quality of the original. "The mufflers we make are as good as the originals. The prices are much cheaper by 50 percent from the original."

Remcor has also established a sound business relationship with its clients. "We try to always meet with them once a year. What they need or specify in their orders, we always accommodate. If they want their mufflers in black, then we paint them black. If they want silver, we paint them silver. If they want us to put their logo, stamp or stickers, then we put them."

"Citem has helped Remcor in the initial exposure to the world market," says Lu. She adds the company is proud of the Golden Shell Award for Marketing Excellence.

"It's a very prestigious award. This means that our company proved to be a player in the global market. Through this award, our efforts are acknowledged to continuously supply the export market."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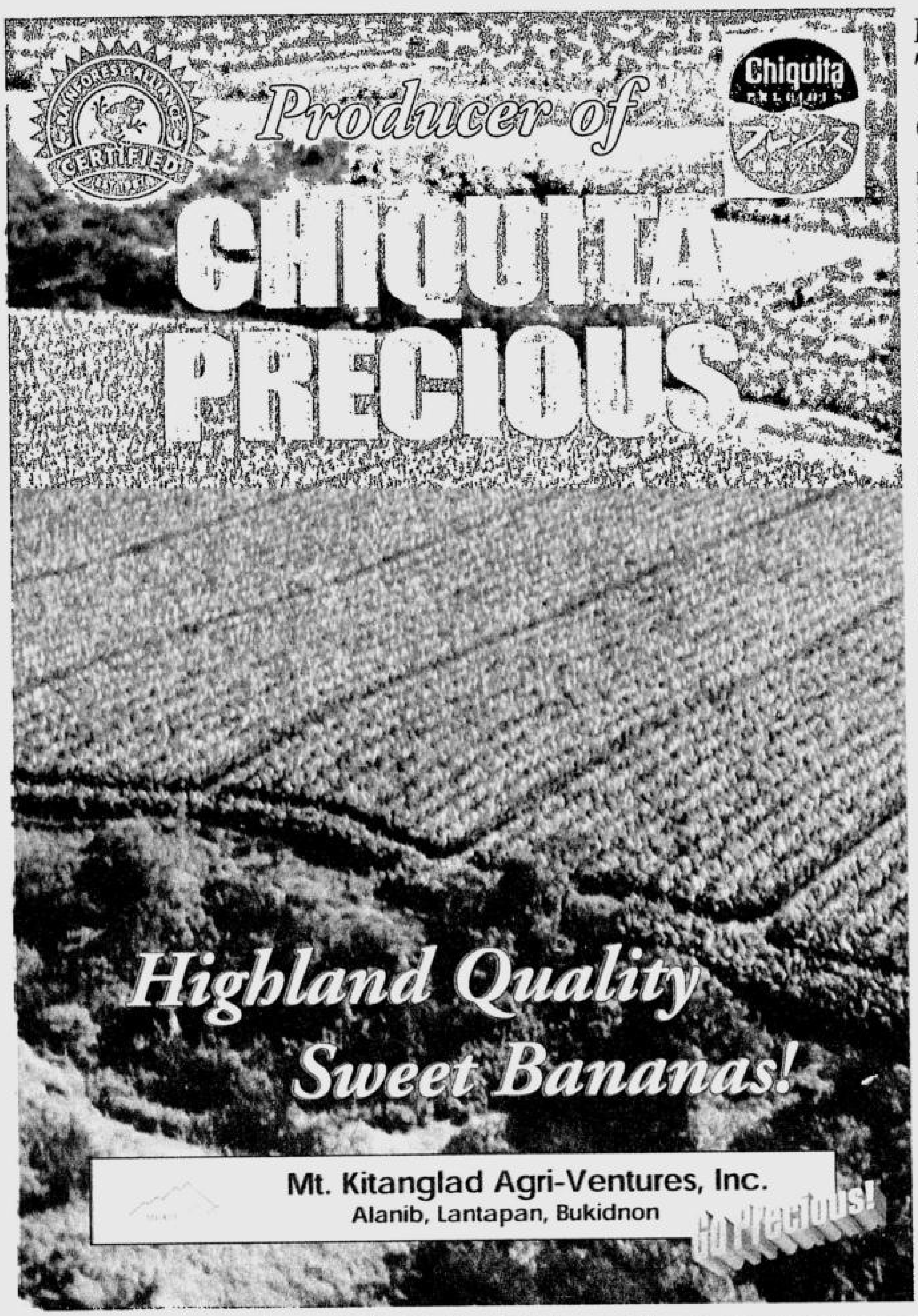

MT. KITANGLAD AGRI-VENTURES, INC.

The meaning of green earth stewardship

Mt. KITANGLAD Agri-Ventures, Inc. (MKAVI) began its operations in November 1998 with a banana plantation area of 250 hectares located in the highland areas of Alanib, Lantapan, Bukidnon.

Now on its fourth year of existence and gradually increasing in area, it has already created an indelible mark in the locality with its community development programs, impressive infrastructure projects and a verdant pasture for the utilization and advancement of its most important capital the Human Resources.

MKAVI currently provides opportunities to about 1,000 people and rendering livelihood to more than 700 families through its multi-purpose cooperative and various community programs in Bukidnon.

MKAVI's fame goes beyond the borders of Bukidnon. Through the steady flow of both local and foreign visitors, it has shown to the country and to the world its capability to be at par with the best in the banana export industry.

This is attributed to the right blend of company strengths such as unique and state-of-the-art technologies (e.g. drip irrigation technology); well-researched and planned farming techniques such as the innovative piercing and sucker selection method; and sound formidable leadership whose strength and philosophy are deeply anchored in a profound spirituality that permeates the MKAVI family.

The totality of these elements is what MKAVI call the "precious process"—because at MKAVI, the process of production is always as important as the product itself.

"We are elated and feel deeply affirmed in our quest to produce world market-preferred bananas through appropriate, sustainable and environment-friendly technologies. With this recognition, our core value of 'green earth stewardship' will surely cascade to our myriad of stakeholders and surrounding communities."

Neil B. Abejuela

MKAVI is confident that is products "grown the precious way in the mountains of Bukidnon" will compete with the best in the world and satiate the palates of consumers the world over.

Congratulations

Remcor Industrial & Manufacturing Corp.

Golden Shell Awardee For Manufacturing Excellence

Phil-Japan International Machinery Center Inc.
Phil-Japan Industrial & Manufacturing Corp.
Soutech Development Corp.
Dreambike Superstores
Mayya Cycle Center Inc.

PRODUCT LINES

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- Automotive Side Members
- Automotive Seat Frames
- Stamped Metal Body Parts
- Tools, Dies, & Jigs (Fixtures)
- Motorcycle Metal Parts
- Molded Flexible Foam
- Importer of Metal Working Machinery & Machine Tools
- Distributor of Local & Imported Motorcycle

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EVOLUTION OF THE KITCHEN

From open fireplaces to grandiose layouts

IF NECESSITY is the mother of invention, the kitchen is surely one of the great arenas of technological change. The pace was slow through the first two-thirds of the millennium, but the impetus behind 1,000 years of kitchen developments has remained the same: to move food from larder to table efficiently.

From the large, open fireplace of a medieval shopkeeper's house, to the grandiose layout of a 15th-century nobleman's kitchen, these rooms were indicators of wealth—and often a virtual slave quarters for the women and servants who worked in such torrid environments. Not until the stove appeared in the 17th century did the kitchen as we know it begin to take shape.

The first innovations dealt with regulating cooking temperature. In wealthier homes, servants used hooks, suspension chains, and pulleys to raise or lower cauldrons, controlling the amount of heat supplied. Such a system seems to have been the major improvement of the late Middle Ages.

As European explorers brought back food and spices from far-off lands, wealthy citizens had greater access to exotic ingredients, but cooking techniques remained almost unchanged, with two exceptions: In the mid-17th century, an anonymous cook discovered that cooked meats would keep longer sealed in a layer of fat thick enough to keep air out.

The second innovation occurred in 1679 when French-born physicist Denis Papin invented the pressure cooker. Called Papin's Digester, this airtight cooker produced a hot steam that cooked food more quickly, while preserving nutrients.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, common people began to use the plate, usually made of wood or, for those who could afford it, metal.

"You had only one and you carried it with you," explains Andrew F. Smith, culinary history professor at New York's New School. Guests also brought their own knives, and later, their own forks.

Although the fork dates back to Roman times, for centuries it was used only in the kitchen to hold down large pieces of meat for carving. By the year 1000, Byzantine nobility had begun using small gilt forks for sweetmeats. From there, the fork traveled to Greece and by the 14th century was used by some Italians. But it was not until the 17th century that northern Europeans adopted the fork, and not uniformly.

Colonial Americans built kitchens remarkably similar to those of their medieval European ancestors. The housewife cooked in the fireplace with iron skillets and pots called kettles. She also had a few other iron tools such as gridirons for roasting meat, a waffle iron, a Dutch oven for baking rolls, and a wire frame for toasting bread. The open hearth demanded the woman's constant attention. She had to keep the fire going and prevent her small children from getting burned by flying cinders. In Southern plantations, the kitchen was often a separate building, which protected the owners from the oppressive heat the slaves endured.

But with the Industrial Revolution, the kitchen began to change.

One of the more important developments was canning. "The canning revolution made it possible to have large modern urban cities," Smith says.

In the 1700s, European housewives began preserving fruits in boiled-sugar syrups. In 1809, after 14 years of experimentation, French confectioner Nicholas Appert developed canning, by hermetically sealing fruits, vegetables, meats, and milk in glass bottles, and then processing the bottles in boiling water. Napoleon had offered a large prize to anyone who could develop a new method of preserving food so that he could more easily feed his troops.

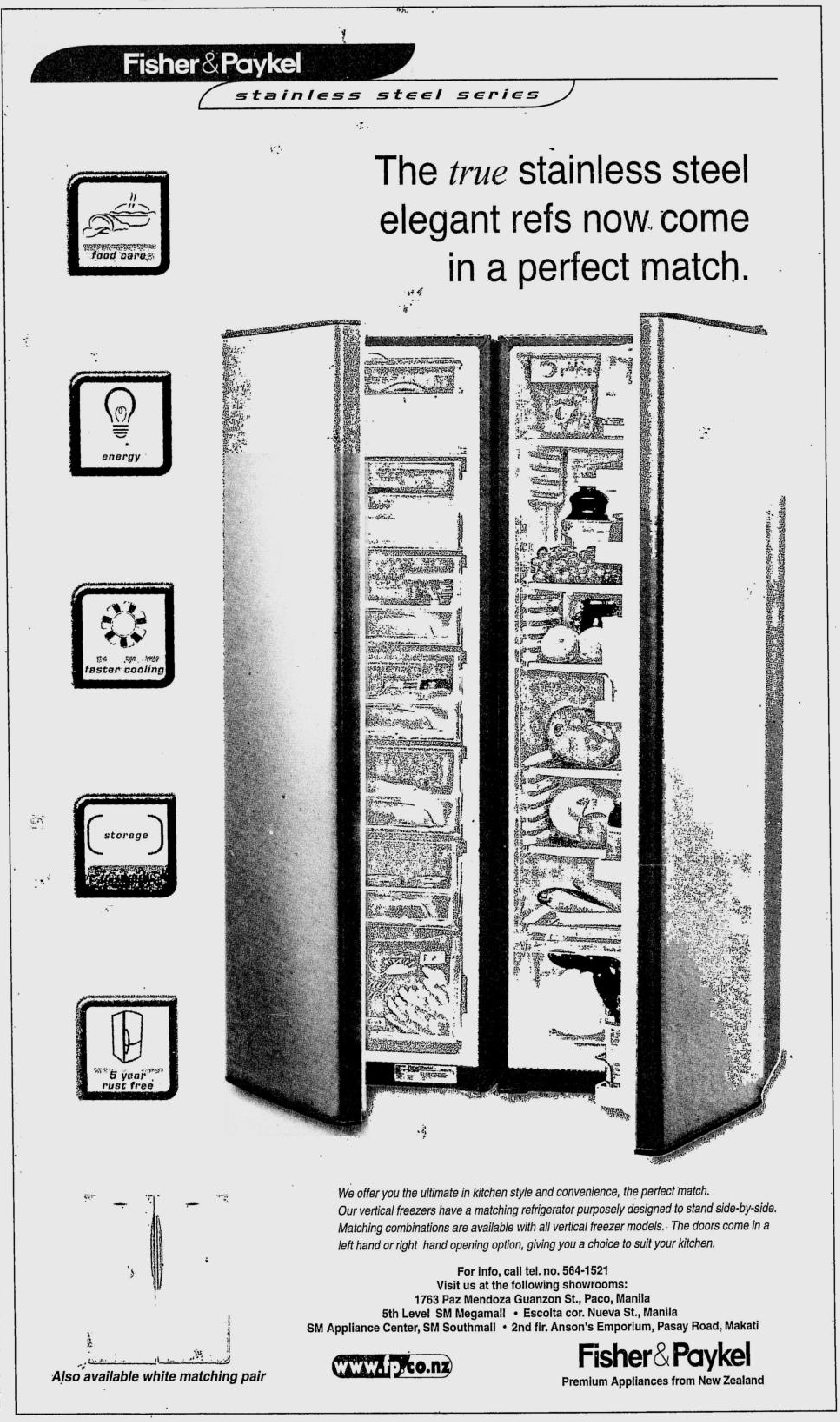
Home canning didn't become popular in the United States until the early 1900s. By then, machine-made jars replaced hand-blown glass bottles.

For home cooks, the improvement of the stove was perhaps the most important advance of the past 1,000 years. The earliest stoves were designed for heating rather than cooking. In the late 1700s, American-born physicist Benjamin Thompson, later known as Count Rumford, invented the Rumford fireplace, one of the first cast-iron cookstoves.

"Rumford is an exemplar of the application of science to food," says Smith. A refinement of the open hearth with cubbyholes, Rumford's metal cookstove - which could be put anywhere, regardless of where the chimney was located - reduced coal smoke, burned hotter and faster, and yet the heat could also be adjusted.

Swedish engineer Nils Gustav Dalen designed a better stove while recovering from

FIREPLACES/13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Fisher&Paykel
Premium Appliances from New Zealand

La Germania is a local brand

LA GERMANIA is a major manufacturer and exporter of kitchen appliances base in Italy. La Germania is sold in more than 80 countries around the world. However, while it is manufactured in the Philippines under license from the parent company in Italy, all stainless steel products are imported, completely built-up, from Italy. Anyway, is there anything wrong when an appliance is locally built? Has the Filipino stooped to such a low level that we think we cannot produce a world-class product? We are also proud to inform you that our locally made products are being exported to Australia, Brunei, and Indonesia. We are currently discussing with other major brands for their OEM requirements.

Other brands claim they use stainless steel in their appliances. Are there different types of stainless steel?

Appliances finished with stainless steel sounds impressive at first. However, there are different types of stainless steel. The customer would want to avoid stainless steel that is shiny or mirror-finished because that is the lowest quality stainless steel. True stainless steel should also be non-magnetic with a dull or dark finish. The #304 and 18/10 stainless steel is used in premium appliances for their durability.

La Germania has been using #304 stainless steel since we introduced stainless steel appliances, which by the way we were the first to do so. Not only that, we were the first to introduce flame-failure, gas leak safety devices and full function convection ovens on our imported gas appliances. Other brands boast of these features when it has always been used as standard equipment in our imported appliances.

Other brands offer interesting layouts and different designs on their cooktops. Why should I consider La Germania?

Would you rather have your long-term partner to be physically attractive or intelligent?

I admit they have interesting layouts on this cook tops are very interesting, very unique, probably quite original. But the question is, is the layout of the burners practical? Can you actually do a lot of cooking when the burners sit so close together? Is the design of the trivet continuous? Can you slide your pots and pans around easily? Do you need to lift your extremely heavy and hot cookware from one burner to another? Do they use heavy-duty cast iron trivets on their cookers? The answer is a big NO. La Germania designs their appliances to be practical, functional, and classically beautiful.

What is the new product category called La Germania Professional?

We developed La Germania Professional to serve those who demand professional performance of commercial-quality, restaurant-style kitchen appliances for their home. Cooking and heating power of these cookers are beyond those of regular ranges and cook tops. The body is handmade in Italy using 18/10 commercial-grade stainless steel. Exclusive features on selected models include a fryer and griller/griddle for more cooking flexibility. We are extremely proud of this new line because it basically represents everything we know about making a great cooker.

La Germania Professional is a restaurant-style appliance. How will it look in my kitchen?

The bold look of professional product is the latest trend in serious homes and kitchens around the world. The exterior has been refined to accommodate any style of kitchen, but at the same time, the heavy use of stainless steel gives it a statement that your appliance delivers serious performance. You will feel the superior quality of this product just by looking at it. This is truly an amazing product that will enhance any kitchen

Do I need a La Germania Professional appliance for my home?

This really depends on what your priorities are for your kitchen. As a serious cook or gourmet chef, this product more than satisfies your cooking needs. For someone who is looking for durable appliance, La Germania Professional is engineered to last. As a homeowner or builder, you will be getting a premium appliance that looks beautiful in your spanking new kitchen and immediately puts a premium to the value of your home.

Who is Fisher and Paykel? How come I've never heard of them?

F&P is a New Zealand-based appliance manufacturer which started out as an OEM supplier for specific brands such as Frigidaire, and Kelvinator for the Australasian high-end market. They are currently supplying OEM products for Whirlpool in Europe, Sanden, and General Electric in Japan. They have become so great at manufacturing high end appliances that they decided to use their own brand to establish their own identity and not depend on OEM manufacturing.

F&P is now doing extremely well in the US market with their very popular Dishdrawers and Smartdrive washers. Their products having been consistently getting excellent reviews by consumer review magazines.

What is the Fisher and Paykel brand known for?

Fisher and Paykel is a leading manufacturer of high-end appliances from New Zealand. Their strength is designing unique electronics and software that are incorporated in appliances that make life a whole lot easier for the consumer. They excel in thinking "out of the box" approach in providing solutions to difficult problems in mass-market appliances. Furthermore, notice the design of their product are very progressive and clean using the best materials available.

The Fisher and Paykel brand is embossed on the stainless steel door panel. Other brands say the stainless steel you use is of low quality.

It is an extremely expensive process to curve and emboss on this type of material. I challenge you to look for another brand that has curved a door and embosse s#304 stainless steel on their products. F&P uses #304 stainless steel on their refrigerators as standard equipment. In fact, F&P is only one of the handful of appliance manufacturers around the world using this very costly process. It is expensive, but very classy. Anyone who claims otherwise simply means they can't do it, or not that they're too cheap to do it. Furthermore, F&P is so progressive that they use a 7-layer zinc coated steel on all the refrigerators bodies. This means a 5-year no-rust warranty, the only brand that offers a warranty for you, and the only brand that offers a warranty of this type in the Philippines.

And by the way, F&P was the first to introduce the widely popular bottom-freezer refrigerator that is now a must have in any home. Of course it comes in stainless steel also.

The price of a Fisher and Paykel refrigerator is a bit on the premium side? What makes it so special?

Fisher and Paykel was the first to introduce stainless steel refrigerators in the Philippines. Other brands have been playing catch up ever since.

The best thing about the F&P refrigerator is not the curved, stainless steel door, or the bottom freezer, halogen lighting, or even the tempered glass shelves. It is the Active Smart Cooling System. Without getting too technical, Active Smart uses two variable speed fans, combined with sensors and electronics to accurately regulate the temperature inside your refrigerator. When the interior temperature moves beyond what was set, the sensors inform the electronics to instruct the fans to rapidly adjust and maintain set temperature at the shortest time possible. Furthermore, F&P refs employ adaptive defrost. This means the ref will only defrost when needed, unlike other refs which still employs inefficient mechanical timer that turns the compressor and defrost heater on and off every x number of hours. F&P refrigerators keep your food fresher, last longer, eliminates bacteria, and saves you money on electricity at the same time.

Other refrigerators claim their freezers can go as low as –25. This means that they have a better product?

No. It will only ruin your fresh food as fast as possible. Correct freezing temperature is –18 and –4 for the refrigerator section. Anything beyond these temperatures will not keep your food last long. F&P Active Smart refs are designed to remain constant at these temperature, keeping your fresh food last longer.

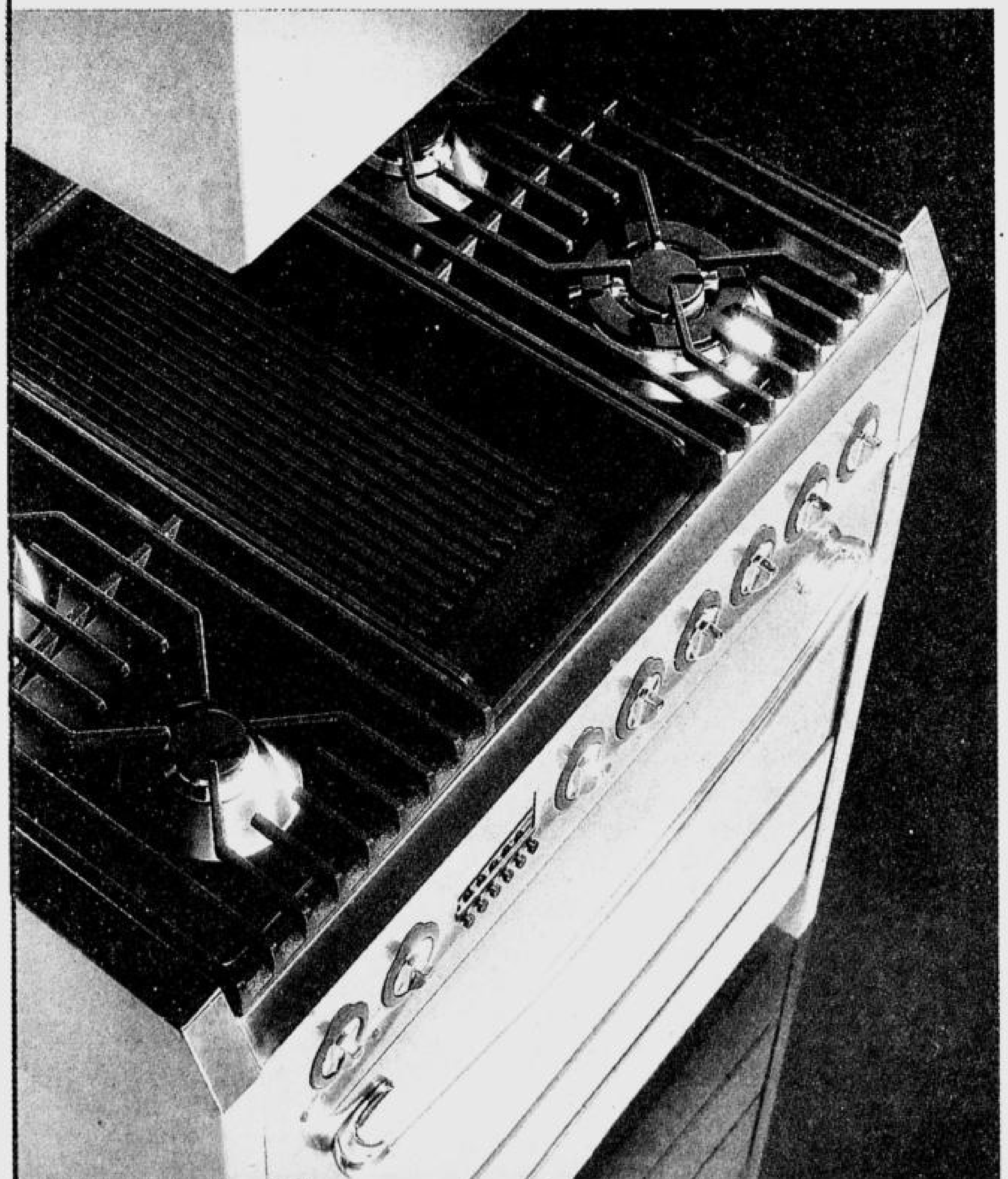
Why do other brands always emphasize on stainless steel as a great feature?

Because they have nothing else to talk about. You should realize the fact that any manufacturer can put on "stainless steel" door on a conventional refrigerator and charge you a premium for it. Their appliances are so full of old technology that they cannot tell the customers the performance benefit of buying their products. Our refrigerators are popular because of the superior cooling and food storage performance, not to mention the sleek, and fresh exterior design. F&P gives better value because of the superior performance of our products.

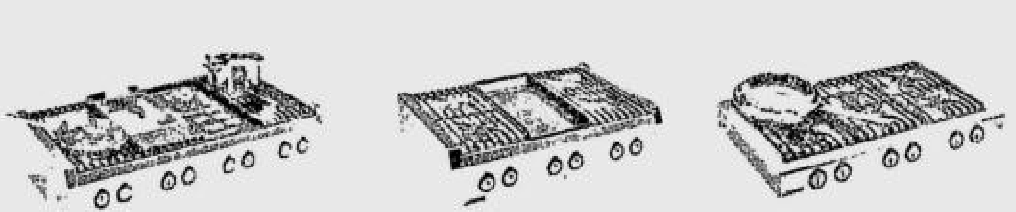
Now that I've read all this, I'm really confused. With so many brands in the market, how do I make the right decision when shopping for appliances?

You can start by getting a lot of information on the Internet. You will know a reputable brand when you see and read the information on their website. Second, make sure that the manufacturer or distributor has a long history of selling appliances in the Philippines. Are they established brands that can give good service and technical support? Most new brands claim that they have service but actually order the parts only when needed. That means ordering and having the customer wait for months, plus having to pay for the part and shipping charges. We actually have customers begging us to service their "other brand" cookers because the "other brand" didn't have parts and weren't trained well enough to fix the problem. Always consider the practical side of purchasing an appliance. Finally, try to avoid salespeople who give negative comments on other brands. It is a big insult to the intelligence of the customer, and makes the brand they represent foolish and unprofessional.

Made for people who love to cook



Behind every great chefs stands an impeccably equipped kitchen. That is why we developed the La Germania Professional appliances



La Germania Professional kitchen appliances are meticulously engineered and manufactured in Italy, combining

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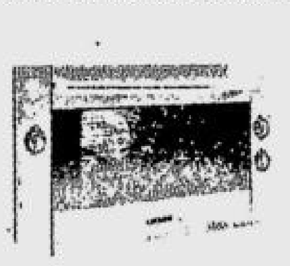

of a professional appliance. A kitchen equipped with La Germania Professional will do more than enhance your cooking options:

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From open fireplaces . . .

From page 11

an accident. While convalescing at home, he noticed how much time his wife spent caring for their wood-burning stove. This practical man decided to invent a more efficient and cost-effective stove.

In 1922, Dalen's Amalgamated Gas Accumulator Co. patented his design and put the first AGA stoves into production. These stoves produced a radiant heat that kept the kitchen warm. The AGA remains popular today, especially in drafty English country houses.

In the 1880s, the closed range was hooked up to gas and in the 1890s, to electricity. Food historian Rachel Laudan, author of the forthcoming book "Power Cuisine and History" says, "No other change in kitchen technology compares to this—the closed gas or electric stove. It made the kitchen cleaner and pleasanter; you could begin cooking with the turn of a knob instead of needing to allow a couple of hours to get the fire going. It transformed cooking methods."

Laudan adds that the enclosed stove "led to the great North Euro-American invention, the cake-cookie-pie complex. Before this, baking was a specialist trade. Admittedly, home baking also relied on chemical raising agents, refined white flour, refined white sugar, all of which had become cheap and widely available in the previous half century."

Home refrigerators and freezers arrived in American homes somewhat later. In the United States, the Shakers built some of the first ice houses, using sawdust and straw to keep large chunks of ice from melting too quickly. Individual families used a smaller version, the icebox, an insulated box kept cool as a large chunk of ice, delivered weekly, evaporated.

Ice-making machines began to be patented in the 1830s. Refrigeration was being developed about the same time. In 1867, a prototype refrigerated rail car was patented, and soon trains and ships had refrigeration compartments.

After World War I, many Americans began replacing their home iceboxes with refrigerators that had a small freezing compartment. "American housewives took to the mechanical refrigerator as fast as their finances would allow," writes Sylvia Lovegren in her book "Fashionable Food." Those early refrigerators were easier to clean and regulated temperature better than the old-fashioned icebox had. Women could store food more easily, even freezing small quantities, and therefore needed to shop less often.

"With the car and the supermarket, the refrigerator made weekly (rather than daily) shopping possible," Laudan says, adding that the home refrigerator "started America's enchantment with the chilled," from cold drinks to ice cream.

By the mid-1950s, more than 80 percent of American households had a refrigerator, compared to only 8 percent of English households, Lovegren notes.

Home cooks began buying commercially frozen foods in the 1930s, after Clarence Birdseye started selling his line of "frosted foods." (The word "frozen" was associated with food that had gone bad because of cold weather.)

Most of the gadgets modern cooks take for granted were invented in the past 150 years. In the second half of the 1800s, "Eggbeaters, cherry stoners, apple parers and corers, butter churns, meat choppers—all these and more were patented in large numbers," but few households owned them, Strasser writes.

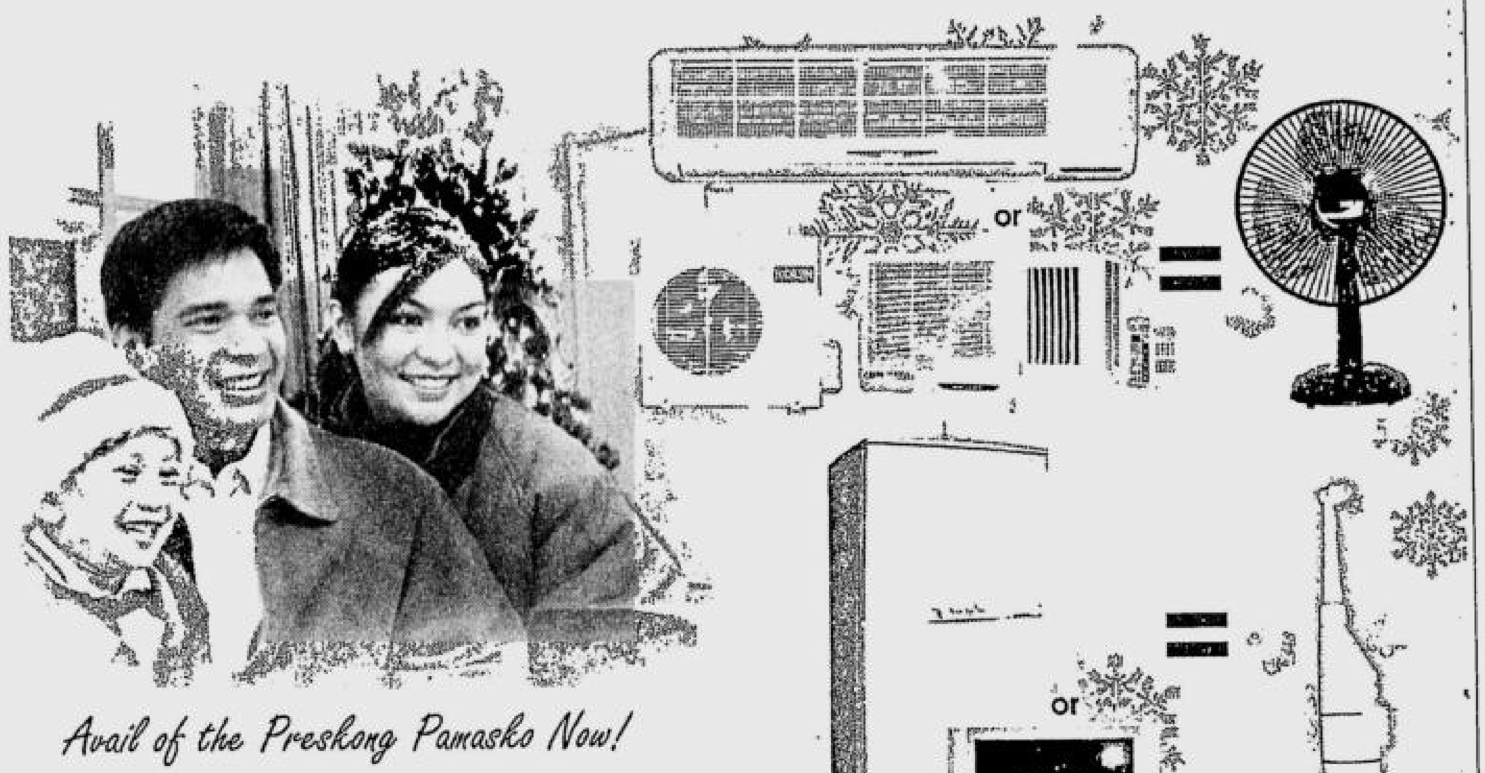
Laudan sees the application of the small electric motor to kitchen appliances as an important development.

By the 1930s, housewives could buy electric devices ranging from chafing dishes, waffle irons, hot-plates, mixers, toasters, and even a free-standing portable oven. "Electric gadgets were the darlings of the 1930s, evidence of the modern age even in the midst of Depression," Lovegren writes.

By the 1970s, American cooks had even more gadgets at their disposal, such as the food processor, the microwave, and the slow cooker, best known by the brand name Crock-Pot.

FIREPLACES/14

Preskong Pamasko Mula Sa KOLIN



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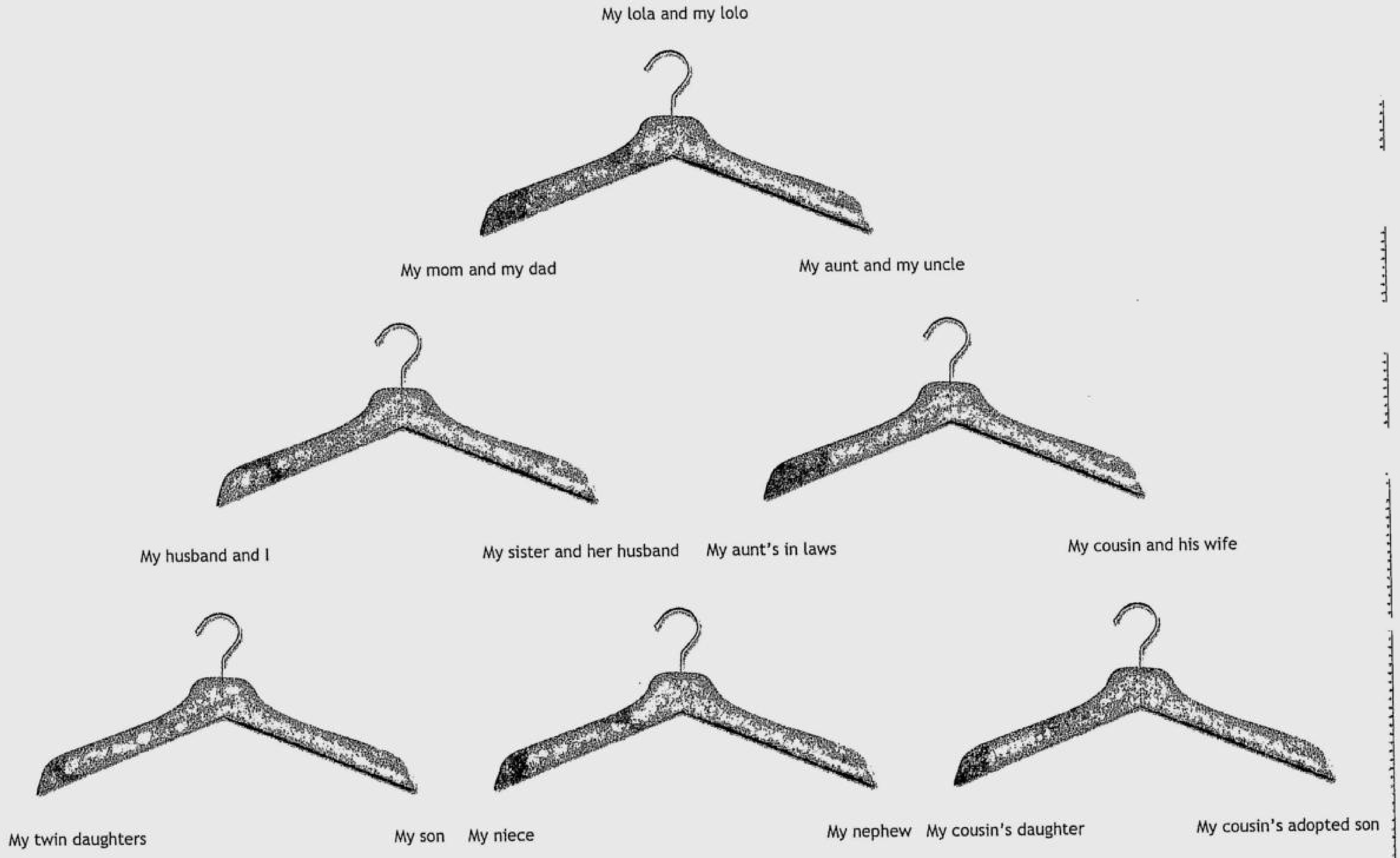

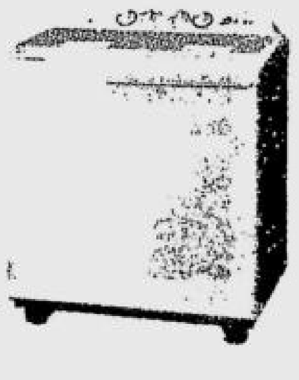

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GE scores a 4-peat in BPI exhibit

FOR THE FOURTH time in a row, GE Appliances topped the white line category in the BPI Card Installment Madness. In the most recent edition held last Oct. 9-27 at the Glorietta. GE beat all other white line (and even almost all brown line appliance) brands.

The BPI Card Installment Madness, the country's most celebrated and productive appliance exhibit, is considered the barometer of the appliance industry in determining what the market considers as its most reliable and in-demand brands. All major competing household appliance brands (at least 17 top manufacturers that converge at the Glorietta's central Sunken Area) participate in the highly energetic and competitive exhibit held three times every year. Brands are ranked at the end of the exhibit according to total sales during the said period. During the most recent edition of the 19-day exhibit, GE posted a clear lead of almost P2 million in total sales over its nearest competitor.

Much credit for the brand's sterling performance goes to its Philippine counterpart CYA Industries Inc. CYA Industries relaunched GE Appliances in October 2001 soon after its appointment as official distributor in the Philippines; since then, the top appliance brand has recaptured the top slot in the white category of the BPI Exhibit. Aside from this, it has gained several other distinctions in the appliance industry among them, the coveted Platinum Award for refrigeration in Reader's Digest Asia's annual SuperBrands Survey Awards.

For more info on GE Appliances in the Philippines call 631-8282, 887-0075, (032) 344-6926 (Cebu), (088) 272-6301 (Cagayan de Oro), or (082) 222-1181 (Davao). GE Appliances are currently available in leading appliance centers nationwide such as SM Appliance, Anson Appliance & Western Marketing.

Woolmark endorses Ariston washing machines

WITH the new Cachemire Gold cycle, Ariston introduces a special, incredibly delicate wash for wool items, thanks to an exclusive, patented program recognized by the Woolmart Company. Tests done by Woolmark Company certified Ariston as the first washing machine to guarantee maximum care for all wool items and designer clothes declared washable only by hand. This is because the particular speed of the drum distributes the items eliminating the friction between fibers. The most delicate designer items last longer and maintain their natural softness.

The Woolmark Company is the world's leading wool textile organization. They specialize in the commercialization of wool technologies innovation, technical consulting, business information and commercial testing of wool fabrics.

Aside from the highly effective front-load washing machines, Ariston also offers an elegant line of products that will suit all their kitchen design requirements such as stainless steel cookers, refrigerators, dishwashers and dryers. For people constructing new homes, they can brighten up their kitchen by choosing from a wide variety of Italian designer built-in products like cook tops, ovens and range hoods.

For more details about Ariston Italian appliances, visit their showrooms at the 4th level of Shangri-La Plaza or call 631-8282 or at Ansons Arcade Makati 887-0075.

Ariston Margherita Series, the first washing machine endorsed by the Woolmark Company—perfect even for the most delicate designer items. Available in AL 109 X mode.

SATELLITE PHONES HELP BOOST TOURISM

Department of Tourism secretary Richard "Dick" Gordon may now stay connected with the rest of civilization when he visits the country's various exotic tourism destinations and hideaways through Smart Communications, Inc.'s satellite phones. Photo shows DoT undersecretary Oscar P. Palabyab and assistant secretary Ma. Theresa I. Martinez receiving in behalf of Gordon an Ericsson R190 Smart ACeS satellite phone from Smart public access department head Tina Z. Mariano. Accompanying Mariano are (from left) Arman N. Sanarez and Jonathan D. Huertas, public calling offices sales managers.

HP LAUNCHES NEW LINE OF IMAGING AND PRINTING PRODUCTS

HP Philippines unveiled a new line of imaging and printing products during the recently held press launch at the Strumm's Bar & Restaurant. The well-attended event dubbed the "HP Live Vividly" party showcased its latest cutting-edge products including the HP DeskJet Color Inkjet Printers, HP Scanjets, the all new HP Photosmart 7550 and the new HP PSC 2110, HP's newest multi-function printers that will take digital imaging to the mass market with its affordable and radically easy-to-use products. Shown in photo is Rose Hwan (inset) HP Philippines' general manager for imaging and printing group giving her opening speech.

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INSTANT FISHERMAN

From open fireplaces . . .

From page 13

Lora Brody is the author of "Lora Brody Plugged In: The Definitive Guide to the 20 Best Kitchen Appliances." Her pick for the most important modern kitchen appliance? "The easy answer would be the food processor, but my answer would be the slow cooker. Nothing has as many applications as the slow cooker."

The microwave was the largest and perhaps the most important of the kitchen gadgets that became popular in the 1970s. While some brush it off as a device to heat water and reheat frozen food, Smith notes that 64 percent of American homes now have a microwave oven.

Lovegren says, "I think in this century, the microwave is without a doubt the big evolutionary leap because it's made reheating take-out food and frozen entrees possible," which is leading to "the death of cooking in the modern world."

"I think it will take a while, but most people I see around me, except for immigrants or people with strong ethnic backgrounds, don't do any cooking," with the exception of entertaining, she says.

Preparing elaborate dishes for dinner parties is "like a fun hobby or an accomplishment like in Jane Austen (novels) when everyone comes over and the ladies show how prettily they can play the piano," Lovegren says.

Laudan is more circumspect about how the microwave will affect cooking. "We won't know its full impact for another few decades—inventions take that long to find their place—but it's clearly implicated in the move away from meals and toward snacking." (*Judith Rosenberg, The Christian Science Monitor*)

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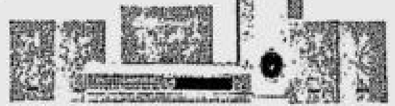

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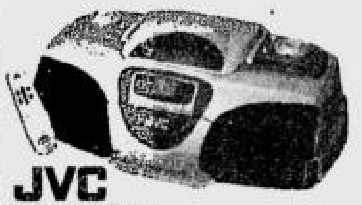

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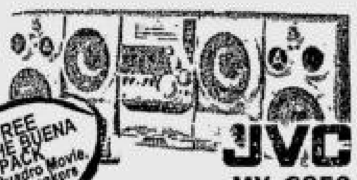

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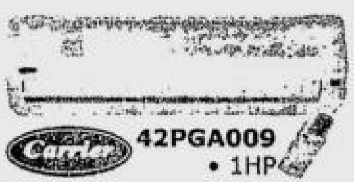

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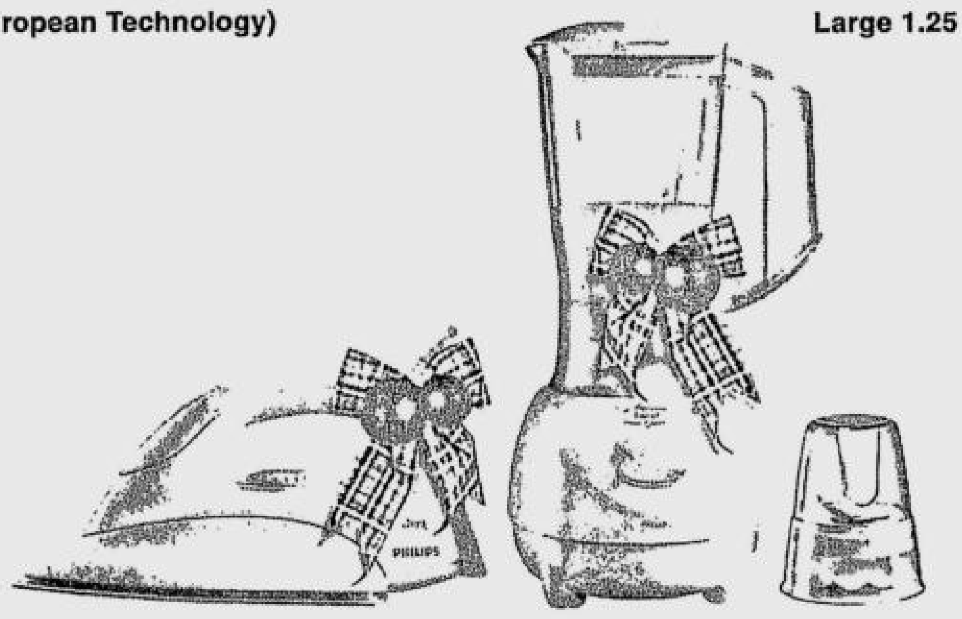
Tels. 911-1071
RUSTAN'S
Tels. 911-2312/13
WALTERMART E. RODRIGUEZ
Tels. 724-2528
SM CITY CARPARK
Tels. 920-9151 to 53 /926-8829
ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Tels. 632-9101 to 05
CENTER MALL FAIRVIEW
Tels. 937-5911
EVER COMMONWEALTH
Tels. 951-8976
CIRCLE C MALL CONGRESSIONAL AVE.
Tels. 927-9432

BICOL
LIBERTY CENTER NAGA
Tels. (054) 473-5973
LIBERTY CENTER LEGASPI
Tels. (054) 448-7949
PACIFIC MALL - LEGASPI
Tels. (052) 480-6264

Topping it off with Tefal

TEFAL, dubbed the Rolls Royce of cookware, made the perfect pan to whip up Pillsbury's sweet treats during Family Reader's (FR) Grandparents' Day with the Family Celebration. The cooking demo was among an exciting line up of activities held at the SM Megamall Atrium.



This time, Philips makes your Christmas better.

NORMAL PRICE
~~P699~~
NOW ONLY
P599

GC 135 Dry Iron
Lightweight: 760 g only
Temperature control and pilot lamp
Aluminum soleplate
(European Technology)

NORMAL PRICE
~~P1399~~
NOW ONLY
P1099

HR 1701 Blender with Mill Attachment
300 Watts powerful motor
Sharp steel blade
Large 1.25 Litre Jar

PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

Metro Manila Dealers: SM Appliance Center • Western • Abenson • Ansons • Rustans • Handyman True Value • Do it Best • Shopwise • Avid • Platinum Appliances • Ace Hardware • Hardware Workshop
North Luzon Dealers: Ocampo's • Saver's • Magic Appliance Inc. • Manhattan Marketing Mike's Department Store • Family Trade House • 5 Sisters • Balingit Home Furnishing
South Luzon Dealers: Normel Marketing • Rain and Rainy • B.C. Toms Dept. Store • Citimart Dept. Store

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4638, Series of 2002
Promo Period: Nov. 15-Dec.31, 2002

Electrolux launches after-sales service

THE ELECTROLUX Group believes that for all appliances to be maintained/repaired in the best possible way, it should be brought to the makers themselves. With this prerequisite, all damaged appliances would be: a. replaced with the right parts; b. repaired with extra care; c. almost the same as brand new as they would be fixed to restore all inbuilt features as much as possible.

That is why the Electrolux Service Center was launched to cater to all queries and repair needs for both Electrolux and White Westinghouse brands.

Electrolux re-entered the Philippine trade last May 2002 with aims to preserve the White Westinghouse brand and to introduce to the country the Electrolux appliances that have been top players in Europe, America, and Asia in the recent years. Electrolux is a market leader in Europe, and number 3 in the US through Frigidaire Home Products. Every year, consumers in more than 150 countries buy more than 55 million appliances sold under the group's various brand names, amounting to $13 billion in group sales.

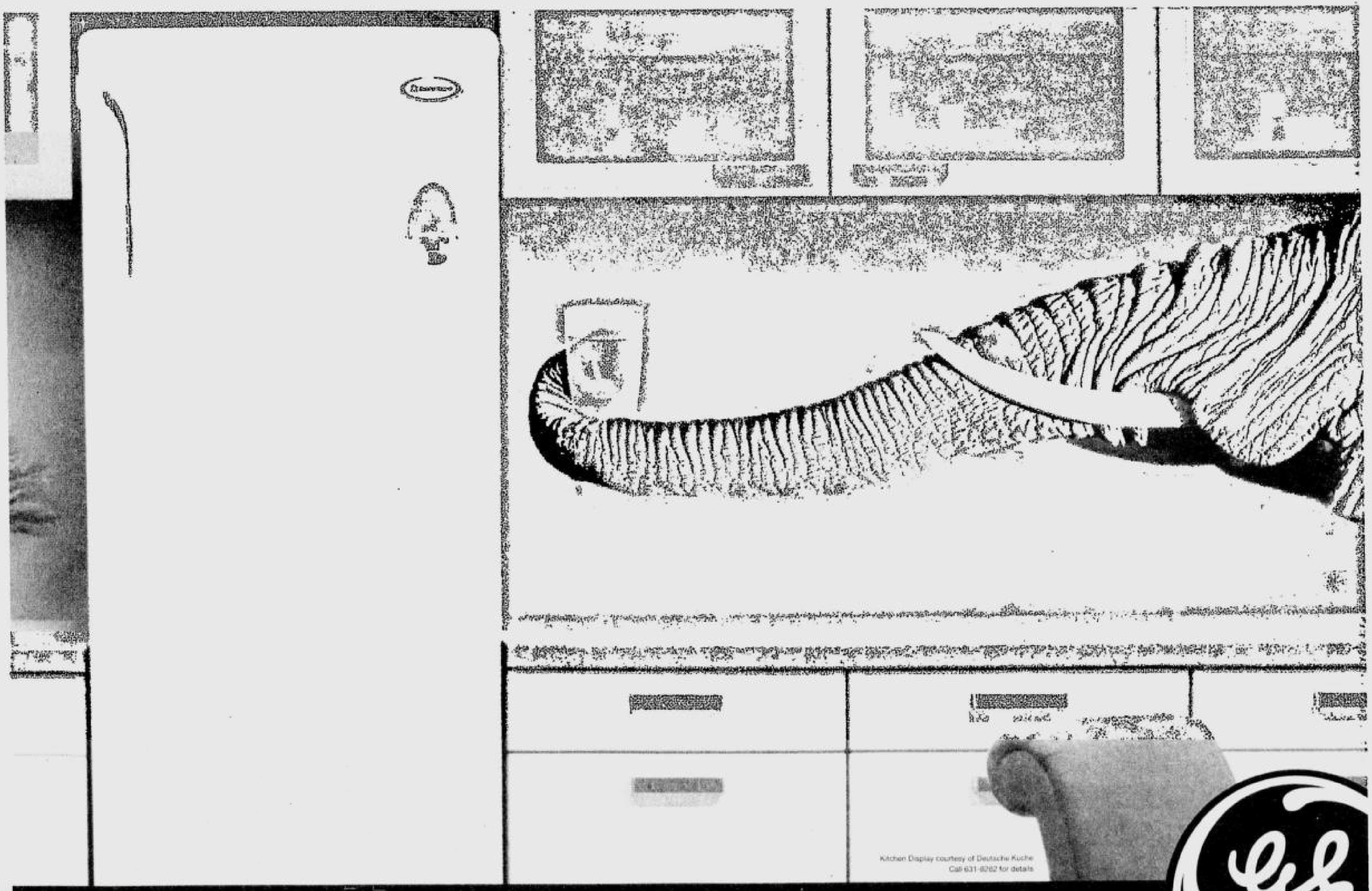
Electrolux Service Center is located at E&E Building II, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City. For your service needs, you may call the Electrolux Service Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays at 825-9908 and 825-9917.

Electrolux

Electrolux participates in Abenson showcase

THE ELECTROLUX group participated in the Abenson Appliance Quest held at the SM City North Edsa. Both Electrolux and White Westinghouse appliances such as washers, cookers, refrigerators and vacuum cleaners were showcased in the said exhibit offering 0% interest through participating credit card companies. For your service needs for both Electrolux and White Westinghouse brands, you may call the Electrolux Service Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays at 825-9908 to 09 and 825-9917.

Electrolux
SONY



Kitchen Display courtesy of Deutsche Kuche
Call 631-8262 for details

Perfect for Heavy Drinkers GE, the innovator of the first refrigerator with built-in water dispenser, introduces the new single door model with the largest capacity 3 liter water dispenser in its class. What's more, all parts that come into contact with the water is certified by the Japan Hygienic Association. Now you can drink all you want, safely.

CYA
GE Appliances
We bring good things to life.

FREE Oven Toaster with every purchase of a 1-door ref. Hurry, promo extended until Dec. 31 only.

Approved per DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3522 Series of 2002

Other units in 5, 6, 6.5, 7 & 9 cu. ft. are also available without dispenser • Call now for inquiries. Tel. numbers; (632) 631-8282 or (632) 887-0075 • Get them now at all leading appliance stores nationwide • Official Distributor: CYA Industries Inc. #103 Mercedes Avenue, Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City